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# INVINCIBLE



VOLUME ELEVEN  
**HAPPY DAYS**





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# INVINCIBLE™

## HAPPY DAYS



CREATED BY  
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INVINCIBLE, VOL. 11: HAPPY DAYS.  
First Printing. Published by Image  
Comics, Inc. Office of publication:  
2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley,  
California 94704. Image and its logos  
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in single magazine form as INVINCIBLE  
#54-59 and THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-  
MAN #11. THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-  
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PRINTED IN SOUTH KOREA

ISBN: 978-1-60706-062-8

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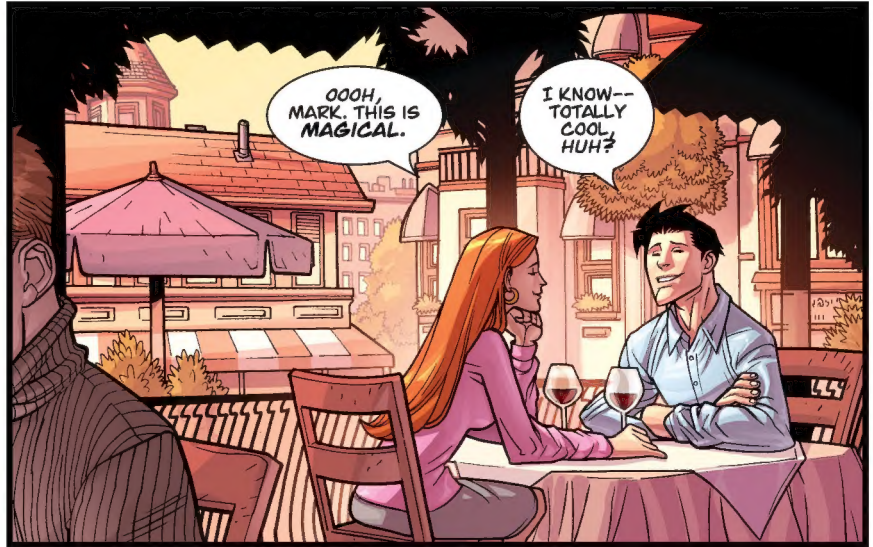
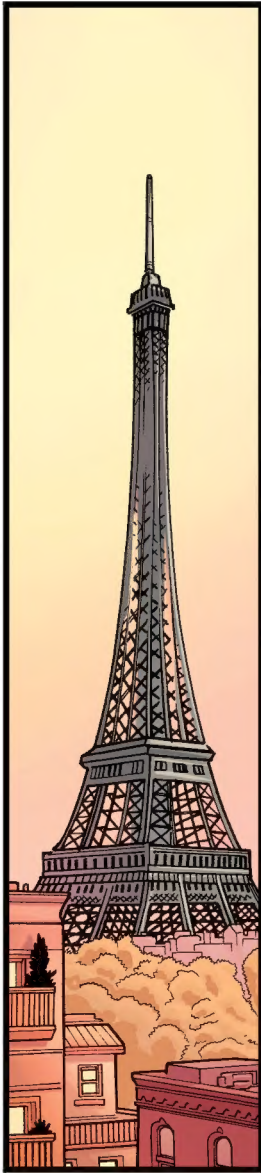




# CHAPTER ONE







OOOH, MARK. THIS IS MAGICAL.

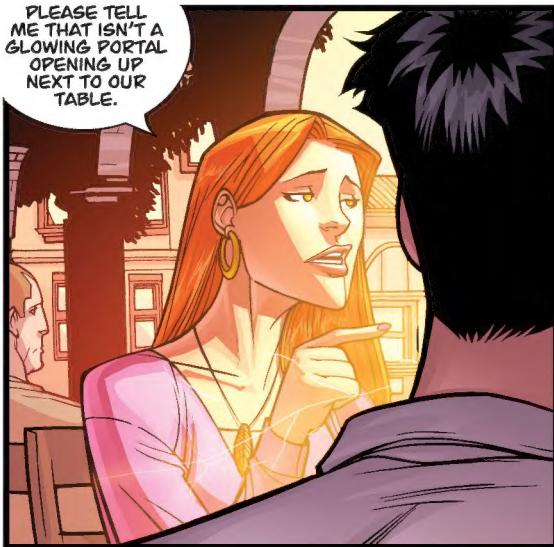
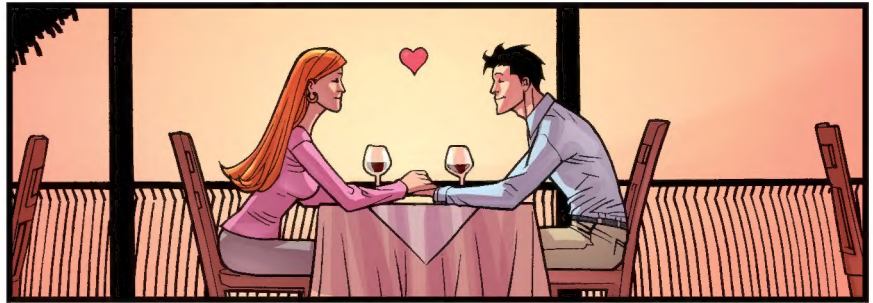
I KNOW-- TOTALLY COOL, HUH?



AND I'VE GOT YOU ALL TO MYSELF--NO INTERRUPTIONS...



JUST LIKE I PROMISED, I'M OFFICIALLY OFF DUTY.

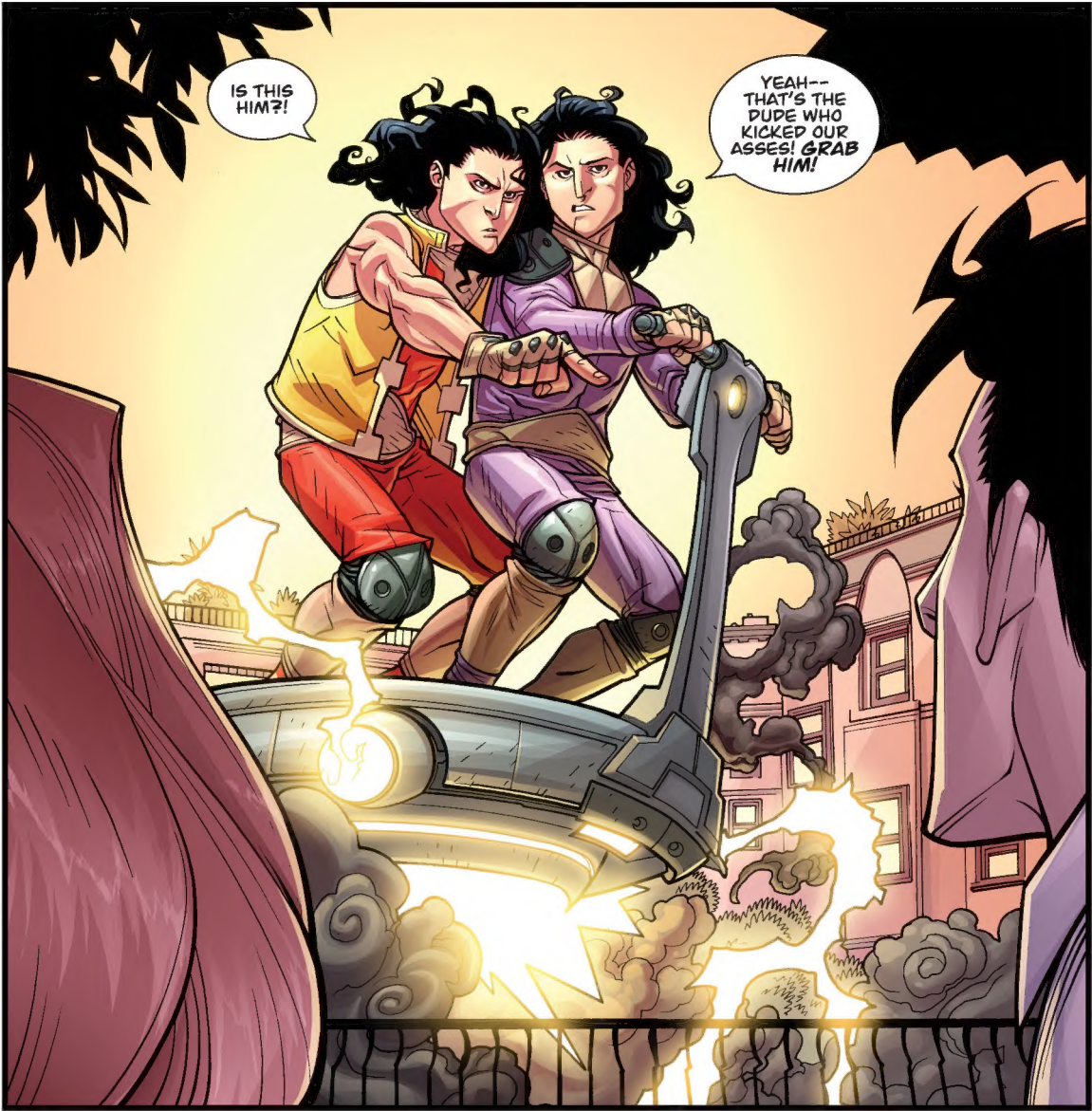


PLEASE TELL ME THAT ISN'T A GLOWING PORTAL OPENING UP NEXT TO OUR TABLE.



YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I WISH I COULD SAY THAT...





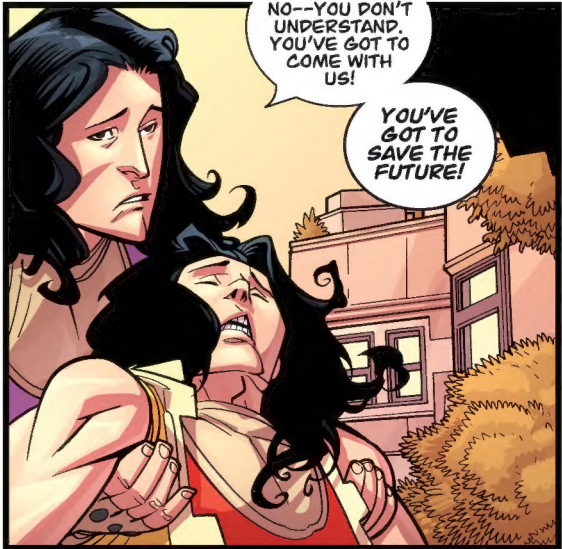
IS THIS HIM?!

YEAH--  
THAT'S THE DUDE WHO  
KICKED OUR  
ASSES! GRAB  
HIM!



WHOA--NOT SO  
FAST, JERKS! I'M  
KIND OF IN THE  
MIDDLE OF  
SOMETHING.

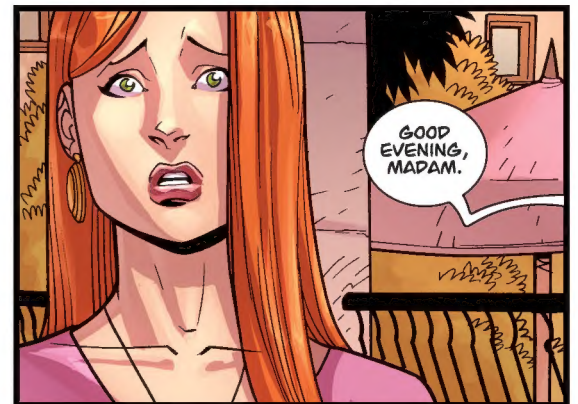
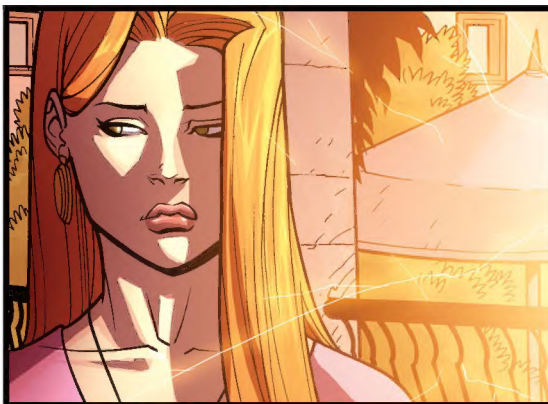
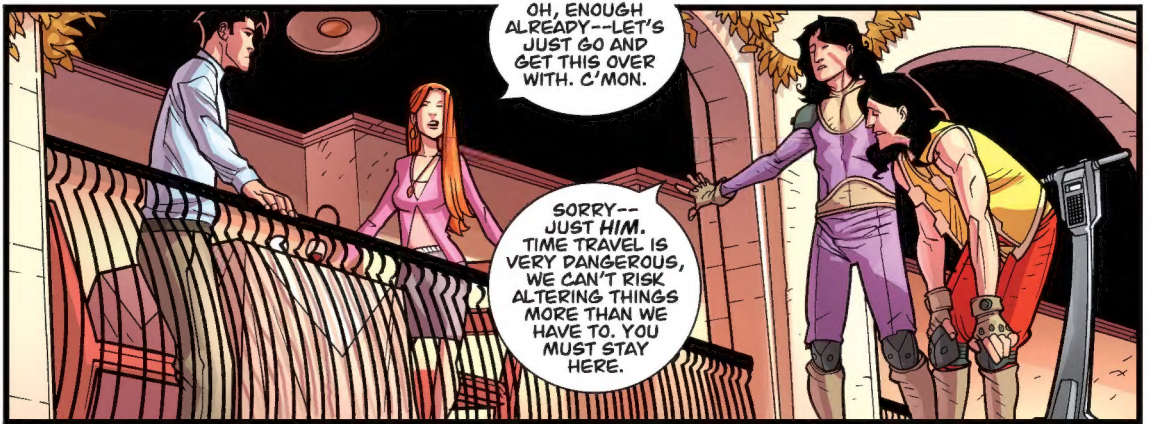
WRAMM!!



NO--YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
YOU'VE GOT TO  
COME WITH  
US!

YOU'VE  
GOT TO  
SAVE THE  
FUTURE!









WELCOME  
TO...

...THE  
FUTURE!

OR AS WE  
CALL IT--THE  
PRESENT!

OUR FUTURE  
IS WAY WORSE  
THAN THIS ONE,  
TRUST ME. WHICH  
IS WHY WE REALLY  
NEED YOUR  
HELP!

SO--TELL ME WHAT  
IT IS YOU NEED ME TO  
DO. I REALLY NEED  
TO GET BACK TO MY  
DATE--AND PLEASE  
DON'T TELL MY  
GIRLFRIEND I WORE  
MY COSTUME UNDER  
MY CLOTHES.

DO YOU HAVE  
A COMPARTMENT  
ON THIS SLED I  
COULD PUT  
THESE IN?

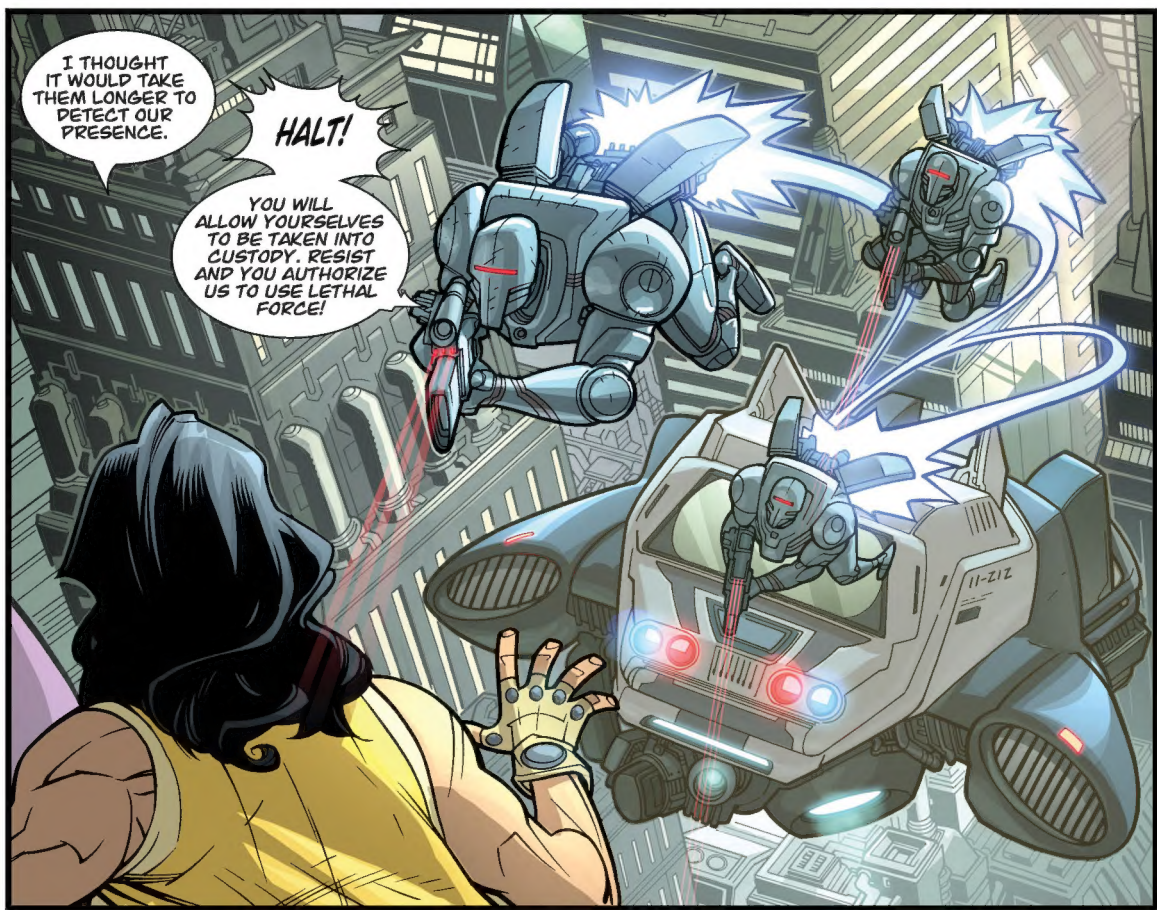
I'LL TAKE  
THOSE  
OFF YOUR  
HANDS.

HUH?

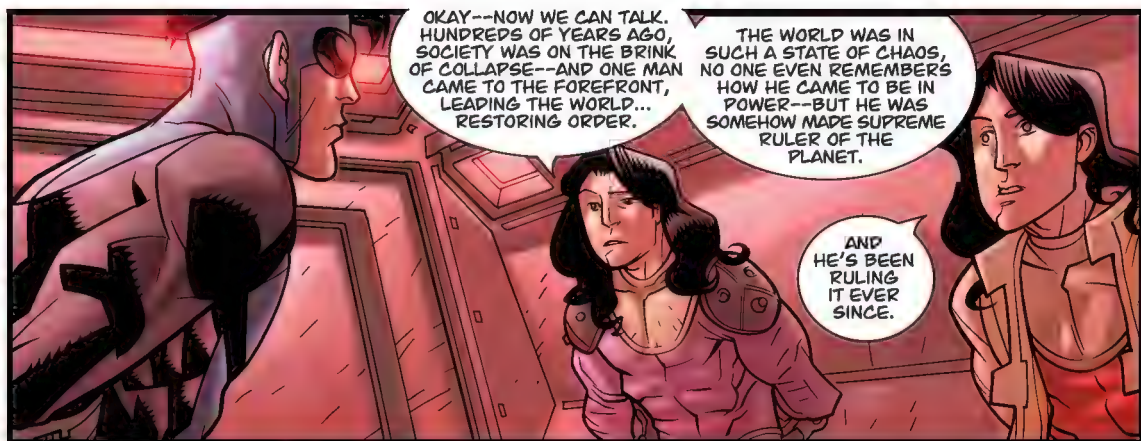
WHAT  
WAS--?

PROBABLY  
BEST IF WE  
IGNORE THAT.









OKAY--NOW WE CAN TALK. HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, SOCIETY WAS ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE--AND ONE MAN CAME TO THE FOREFRONT, LEADING THE WORLD... RESTORING ORDER.

THE WORLD WAS IN SUCH A STATE OF CHAOS, NO ONE EVEN REMEMBERS HOW HE CAME TO BE IN POWER--BUT HE WAS SOMEHOW MADE SUPREME RULER OF THE PLANET.

AND HE'S BEEN RULING IT EVER SINCE.



FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS?

IS HE A... VILTRUMITE?



WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

ANYWAY, HE'S LOST HIS MIND, HE'S DESTROYING THE PLANET, PEOPLE ARE DYING--AND THINGS ARE ONLY GETTING WORSE.



RIGHT--AND WE WERE ASSEMBLING PIECES OF A WEAPON THAT COULD SUPPOSEDLY DEFEAT HIM. THE INK FROM YOUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS USED TO MAKE A POISON HE WOULDN'T BE IMMUNE TO.

IT DIDN'T WORK.



HE'S A TYRANT. HE KILLS FOR AMUSEMENT. MY WIFE WAS BROUGHT TO HIM--THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW HER.

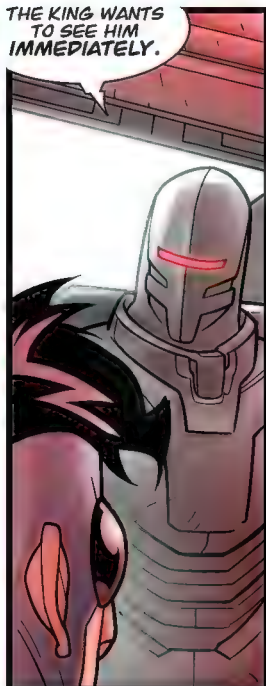


WE'RE BEING BROUGHT TO THE CITADEL, BUT WE'LL BE HELD IN THE DETENTION LEVEL-- YOU'LL NEED TO WORK YOUR WAY UP TO THE ROYAL CHAMBERS. WE'VE GOT REBELS WORKING WITH US EVERYWHERE. ONCE WE FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET YOU TO THE KING WE CAN--



YOU TWO-- COME WITH US.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?



THE KING WANTS TO SEE HIM IMMEDIATELY.







NO, I'M FINE--  
I'M JUST YOUNGER.  
THESE GUYS  
BROUGHT ME HERE  
FROM THE--

I HAVEN'T  
SEEN YOU SINCE  
YOU TOOK YOUR  
FAMILY AND LEFT  
THIS PLANET. WHAT  
WAS THAT--TWO  
HUNDRED--THREE  
HUNDRED YEARS  
AGO?

I JUST...  
I CAN'T  
REMEMBER.

I CARRY WITHIN ME  
A GREAT SORROW,  
MARK. SOMETHING  
I CAN'T OVERCOME...  
NOT ANYMORE...

IS IT ABOUT  
KATE? DID  
KATE DIE?

KATE?  
I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
A KATE...

IS THAT  
THE REDHEAD  
THAT YOU--

**NO!**  
I DON'T  
REMEMBER! I  
DON'T REMEMBER  
ANYTHING!

I WANT  
IT ALL TO END...  
FINALLY, AT  
LONG LAST... I  
JUST WANT IT  
TO BE OVER.

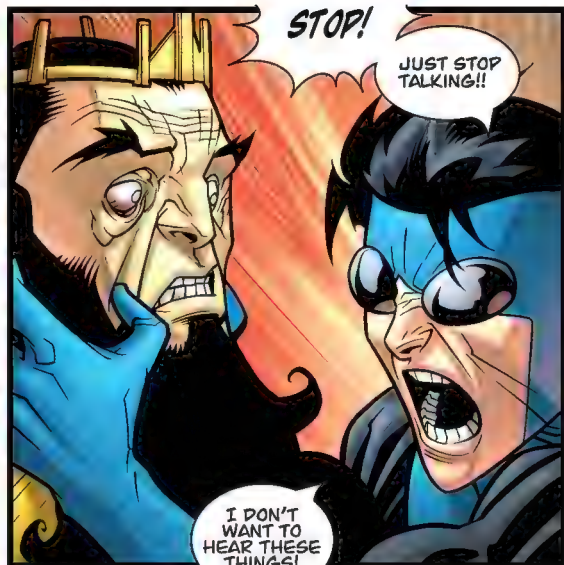
I WANT  
TO DIE,  
MARK.

UH...  
I'M SORRY,  
I REALLY  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO  
SAY.

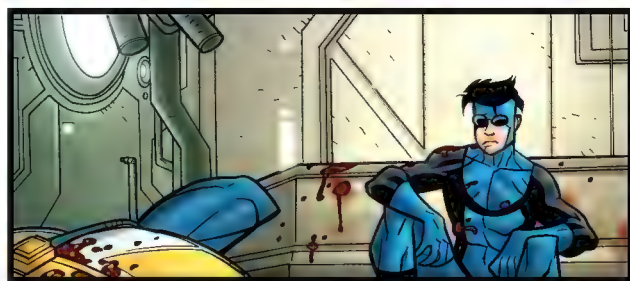
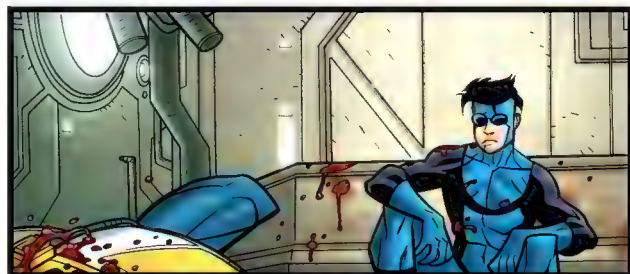
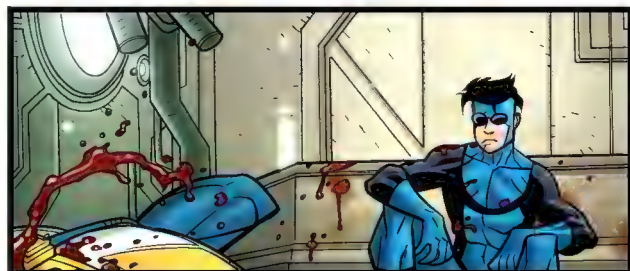








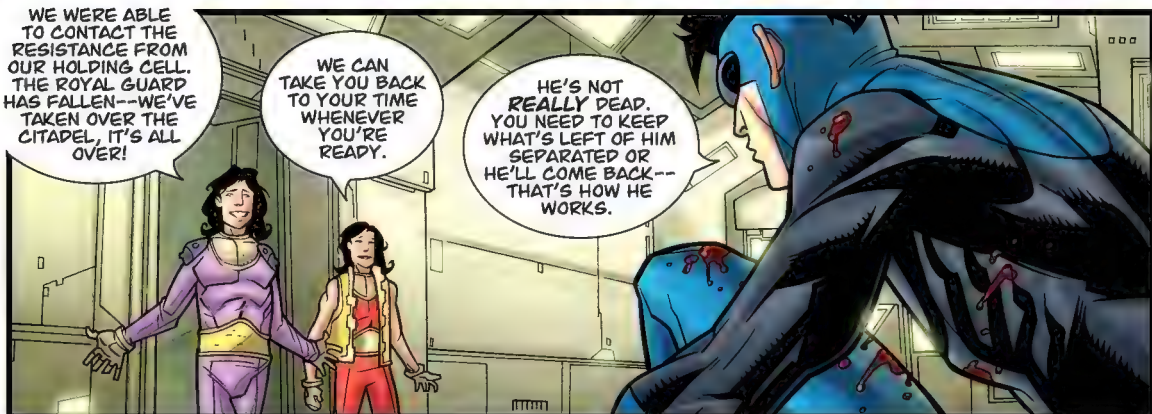




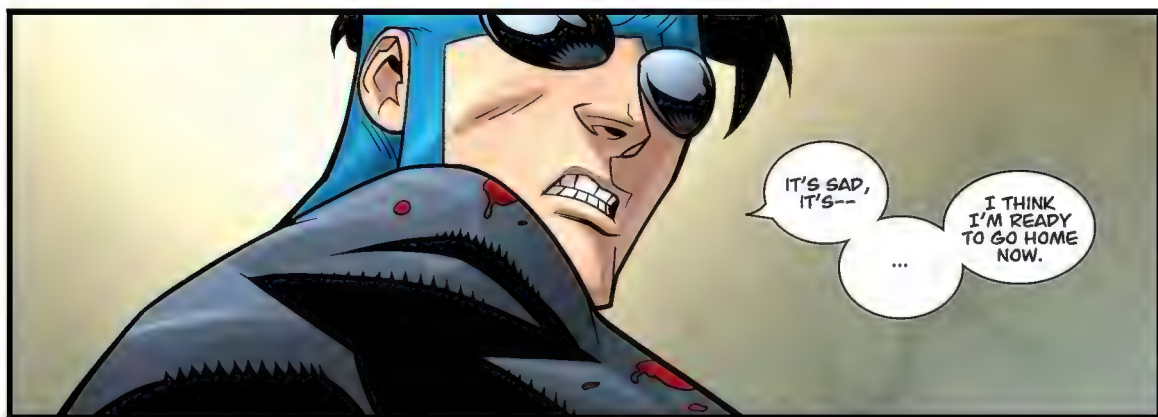
WE WERE ABLE TO CONTACT THE RESISTANCE FROM OUR HOLDING CELL. THE ROYAL GUARD HAS FALLEN--WE'VE TAKEN OVER THE CITADEL, IT'S ALL OVER!

WE CAN TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR TIME WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

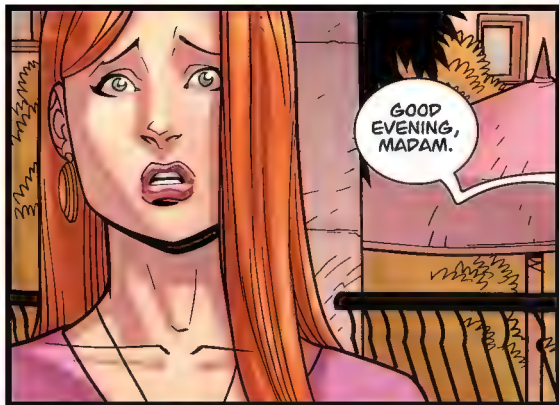
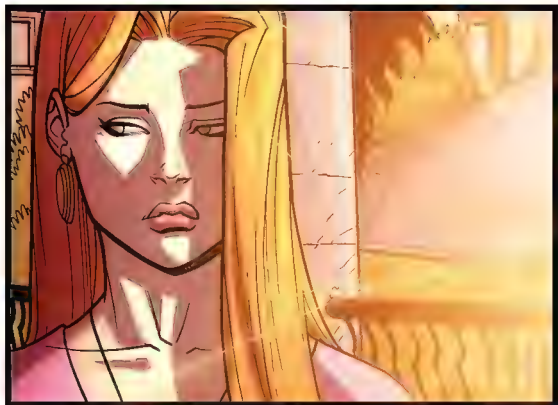
HE'S NOT REALLY DEAD. YOU NEED TO KEEP WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM SEPARATED OR HE'LL COME BACK-- THAT'S HOW HE WORKS.













BUT YOU  
JUST... HOW  
DID--?

I DON'T  
GET IT.

TIME TRAVEL--  
I'VE BEEN AWAY  
FOR A WHILE, BUT  
THEY LET ME  
RETURN EXACTLY  
WHEN I LEFT.  
COOL, HUH?

YEAH,  
ACTUALLY.  
VERY MUCH  
SO. DATE:  
**UNINTERRUPTED.**  
GIRLFRIEND:  
**HAPPY.**

WHAT I JUST DID IN THE  
FUTURE, WELL--I DON'T  
REALLY WANT TO TALK  
ABOUT IT NOW... BUT  
THERE WERE SOME  
THINGS THAT WERE  
SAID--ABOUT ME IN THE  
FUTURE AND, WELL...  
DO YOU THINK  
I'M A GOOD  
PERSON?

WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?  
I'M HERE, AREN'T  
I? OF COURSE I  
DO. WHAT  
HAPPENED  
THERE?

NOT NOW, LET ME  
JUST... I REALLY  
LIKE YOU AND I WANT  
TO SPEND MORE TIME  
WITH YOU BUT THE  
SUPERHERO STUFF  
HAS KEPT GETTING IN  
THE WAY. I THINK  
I CAN STOP THAT  
NOW.

I'M JUST  
GOING TO BE  
MORE DEVOTED  
TO MAKING THIS  
WORK--WE  
NEED TO BE  
TOGETHER, I  
CAN SEE THAT  
NOW...

UH...

MAYBE  
WE SHOULD  
GET OUT OF  
HERE.

LET'S.

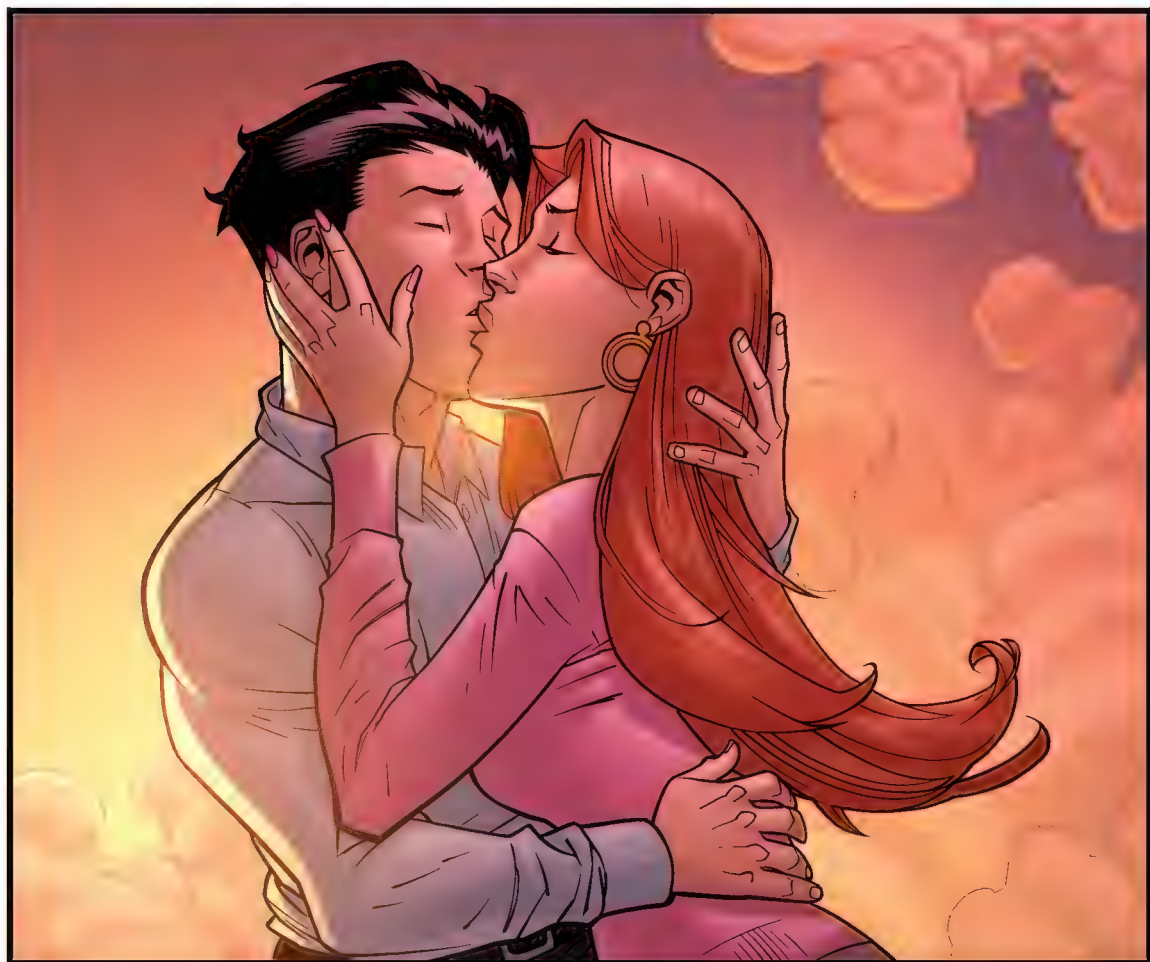
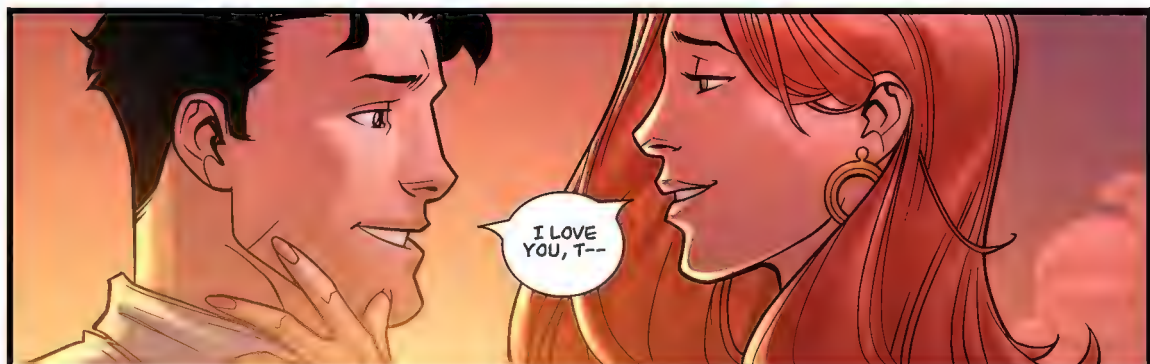
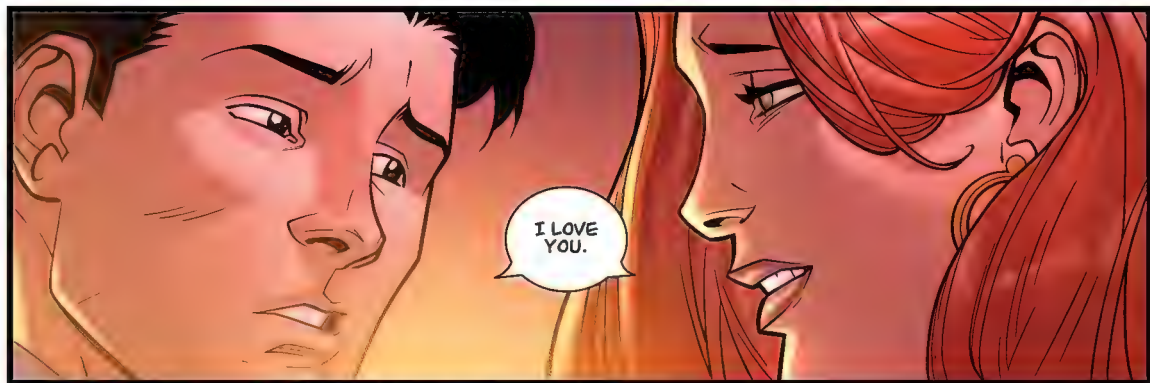




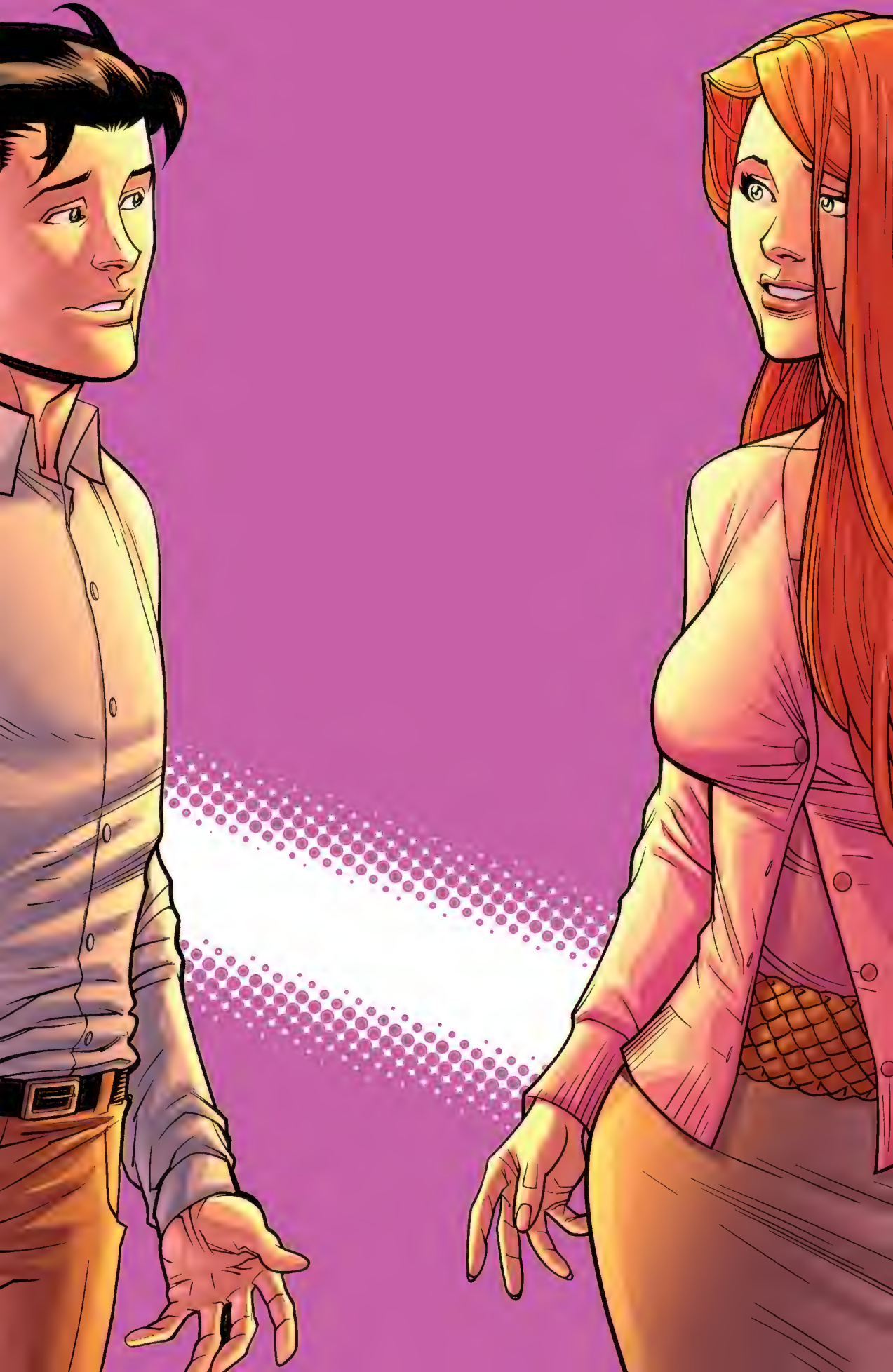










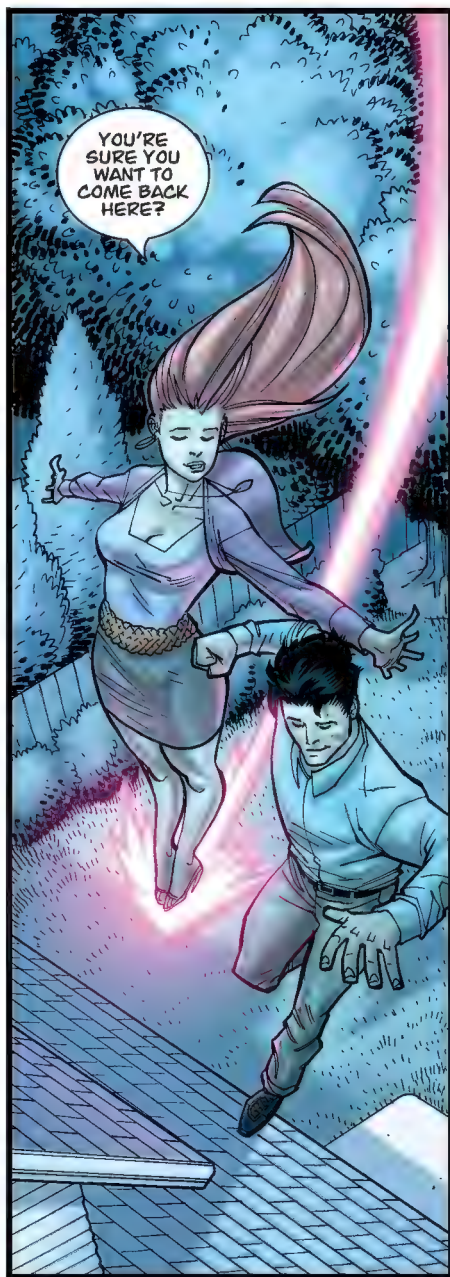




# CHAPTER TWO



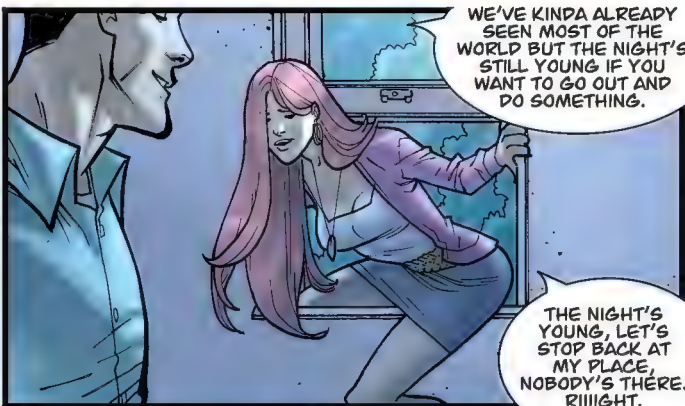




YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO COME BACK HERE?

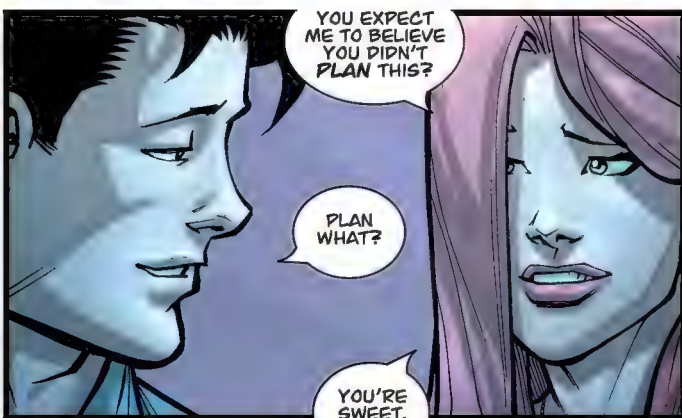
SURE, I FIGURED THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO JUST SIT AND TALK. I THINK MY MOM'S OUT ON A DATE... OLIVER'S TUTOR TOOK HIM TO SEE SOME PLAY TONIGHT.

THERE'S NOBODY HERE.



WE'VE KINDA ALREADY SEEN MOST OF THE WORLD BUT THE NIGHT'S STILL YOUNG IF YOU WANT TO GO OUT AND DO SOMETHING.

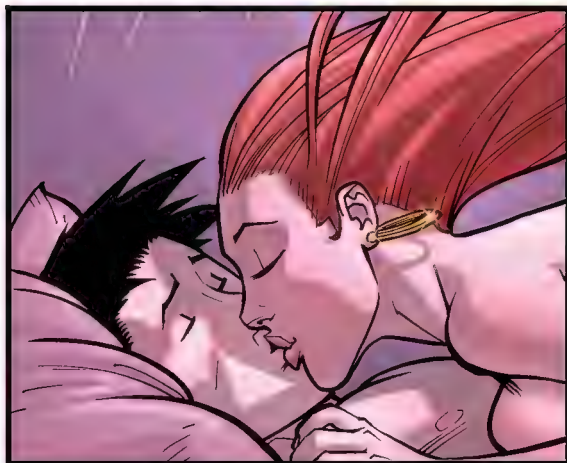
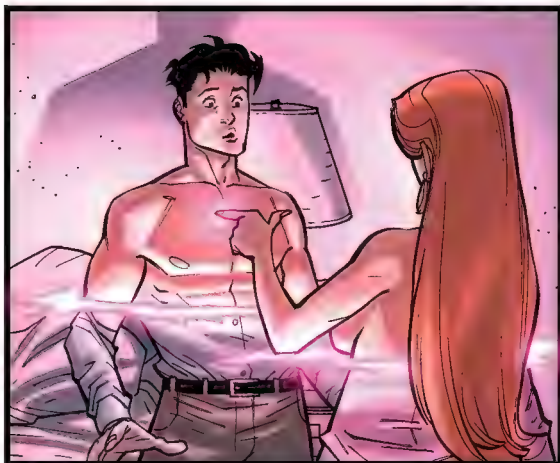
THE NIGHT'S YOUNG, LET'S STOP BACK AT MY PLACE, NOBODY'S THERE. RIIGHT.



YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T PLAN THIS?

PLAN WHAT?

YOU'RE SWEET.





BORN OF A DWINDLING NOMADIC RACE, ROBBED OF THEIR HOMEWORLD BY THE FEARSOME VILTRUMITES! EXPERIMENTED ON TO INCREASE HIS STRENGTH AND SPEED UNTIL HE EMERGED A GUARDIAN OF THE SPACEWAYS! IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS: ALLEN THE ALIEN IN:

# LOCK DOWN, BUT NOT OUT!

AND SO, DEAR READER, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION ELSEWHERE TO GIVE YOUNG MARK GRAYSON AND SAMANTHA EVE WILKINS SOME PRIVACY.

THIS IS A FAMILY TITLE AFTER ALL.

YES, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO FAN FAVORITE, ALLEN THE ALIEN... WHO CURRENTLY RESIDES IN A VILTRUMITE PRISON CELL... FOR NOW.

YOU SEE, THESE SHACKLES CANNOT HOLD HIM. THESE WALLS CANNOT HOLD HIM. THIS PRISON CANNOT HOLD HIM, FOR ALLEN THE ALIEN HAS GROWN STRONG, VERY STRONG.\*

BUT STILL, HE REMAINS, STILL HE WAITS...

...BECAUSE ALLEN THE ALIEN HAS A PLAN.

\*SEE ISSUE 38 FOR DETAILS, INVINCIBLEHEADS.

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INVINCIBLE Vol 1, No 55, OCTOBER, 2008 (U.S.P.S. 428-730) Published by IMAGE COMICS Robert Kirkman, Chief Operating Officer, Erik Larsen, Chief Financial Officer, Todd McFarlane, President, Marc Silvestri, Chief Executive Officer, Jim Valentino, Vice-President. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 1942 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 305, BERKELEY, CA 94704. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 2008 by ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER. All rights reserved. Price \$2.95 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.65 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$12.00; Canada \$17.00, and foreign \$24.00. Printed in Canada. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. INVINCIBLE (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO INVINCIBLE, c/o IMAGE COMICS, 1942 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 305, BERKELEY, CA 94704.

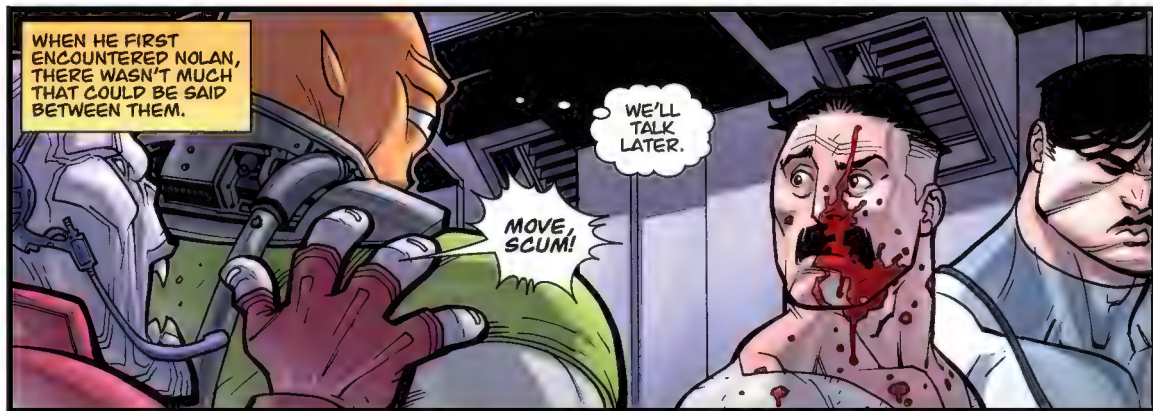




ALLEN IS HERE FOR A REASON AND THAT REASON IS NOLAN GRAYSON, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS OMNI-MAN, THE FATHER OF INVINCIBLE.

HE ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE TAKEN PRISONER WHEN HE LEARNED NOLAN WAS BEING HELD HERE.\*

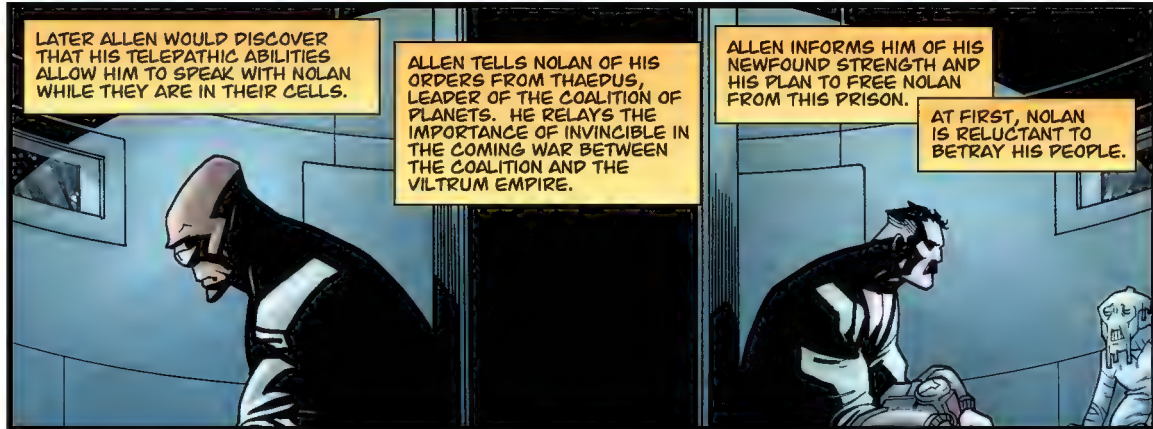
\*SEE ISSUE 45.



WHEN HE FIRST ENCOUNTERED NOLAN, THERE WASN'T MUCH THAT COULD BE SAID BETWEEN THEM.

WE'LL TALK LATER.

MOVE, SCUM!



LATER ALLEN WOULD DISCOVER THAT HIS TELEPATHIC ABILITIES ALLOW HIM TO SPEAK WITH NOLAN WHILE THEY ARE IN THEIR CELLS.

ALLEN TELLS NOLAN OF HIS ORDERS FROM THAEPUS, LEADER OF THE COALITION OF PLANETS. HE RELAYS THE IMPORTANCE OF INVINCIBLE IN THE COMING WAR BETWEEN THE COALITION AND THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

ALLEN INFORMS HIM OF HIS NEWFOUND STRENGTH AND HIS PLAN TO FREE NOLAN FROM THIS PRISON.

AT FIRST, NOLAN IS RELUCTANT TO BETRAY HIS PEOPLE.



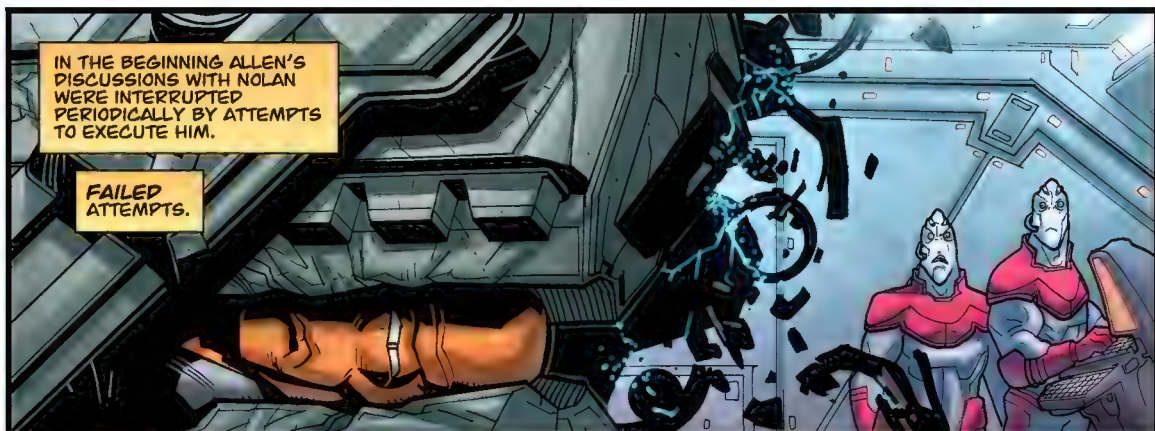
HER NAME IS TELIA AND SHE IS VERY SPECIAL TO ME. I LOVE HER. I DO. BUT MY PEOPLE WON'T ALLOW ME TO BE WITH HER.

MY PEOPLE, THE UNOPANS, WERE NEARLY EXTINCT--WE HAVE STRICT MATING RULES TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL. WE HAVE TO LIVE IN SECRET...



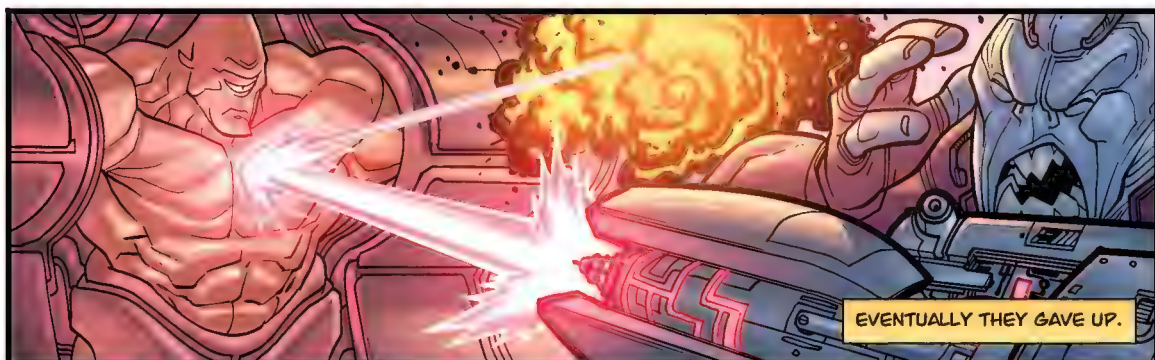






IN THE BEGINNING ALLEN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH NOLAN WERE INTERRUPTED PERIODICALLY BY ATTEMPTS TO EXECUTE HIM.

FAILED ATTEMPTS.



EVENTUALLY THEY GAVE UP.



THEY STOPPED TRYING TO EXECUTE HIM. FROM THAT POINT ON, ALLEN WAITED--LIKE NOLAN, HE WAITED FOR THE TIME WHEN THE VILTRUMITES THEMSELVES WOULD FINALLY COME TO EXECUTE HIM.

HE WAITED.

AND WAITED.

AND WAITED.



ALLEN WOULD OFTEN WONDER TO HIMSELF WHY IT WAS TAKING SO LONG. WHAT IS IT THEY WERE WAITING ON?

WHY WERE THEY WAITING?



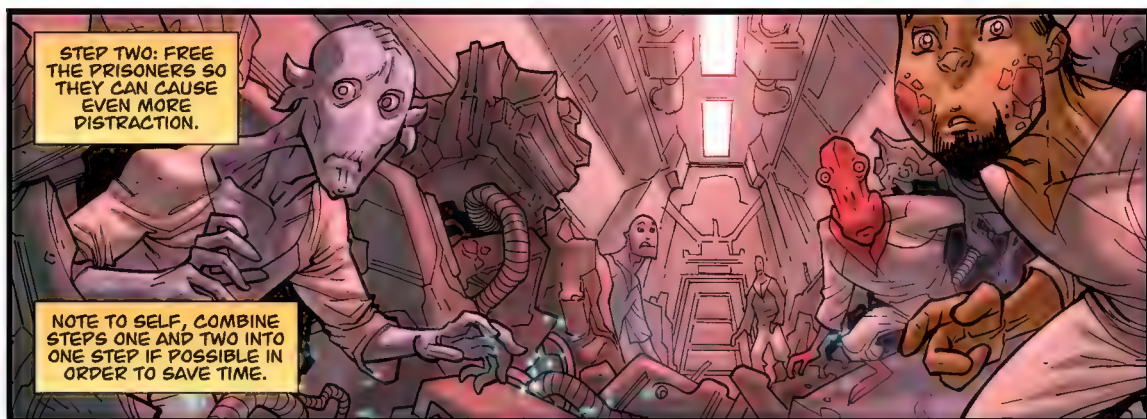
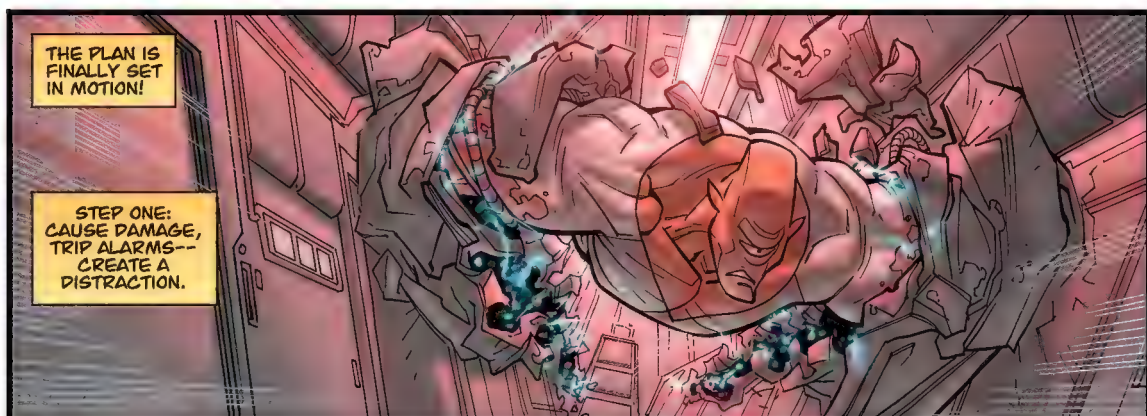
WHY?

IT'S TIME.











STEP ONE: CHECK.

STEP TWO: CHECK.

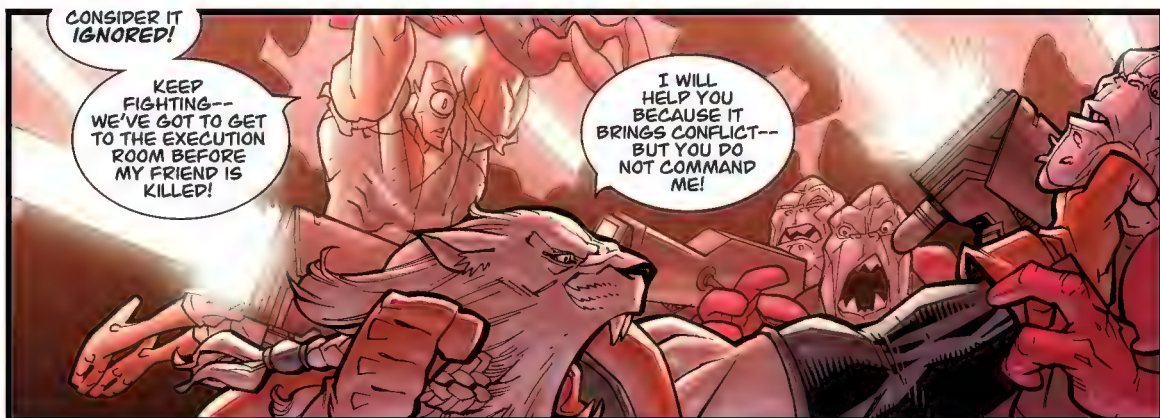
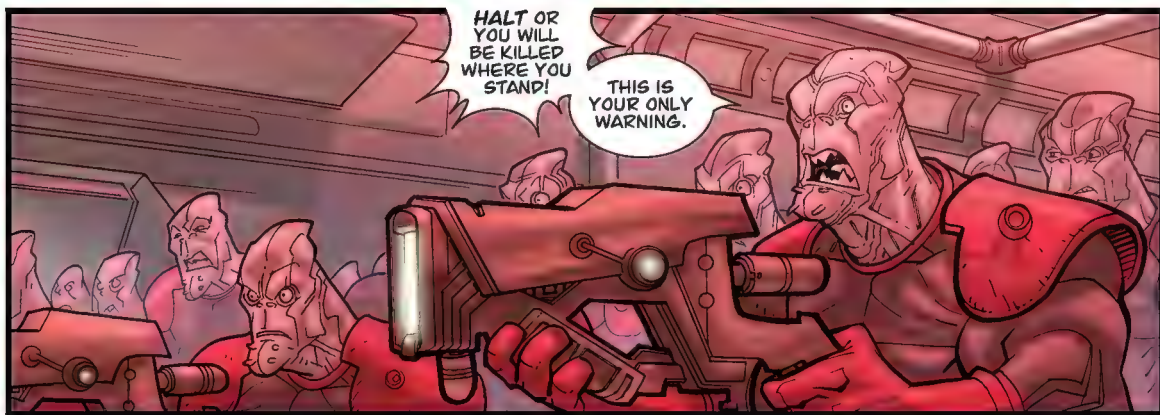
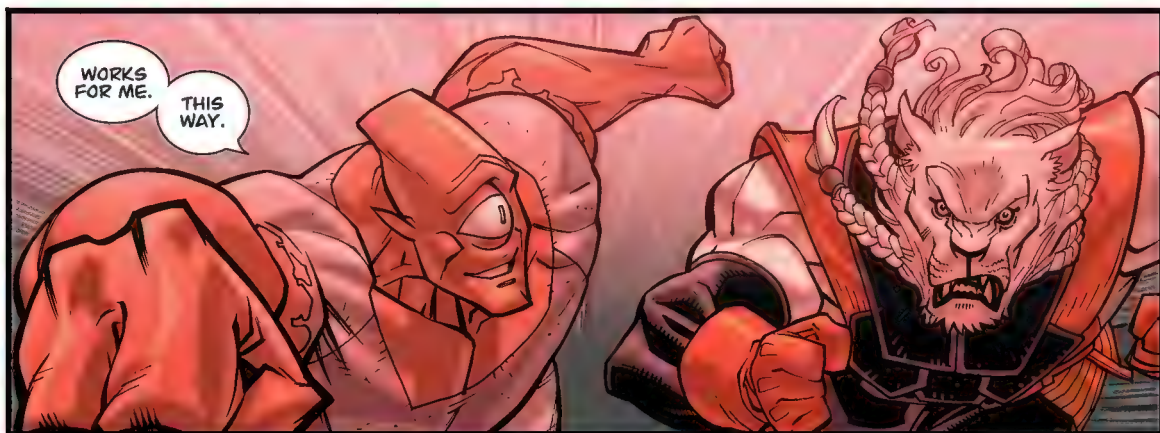
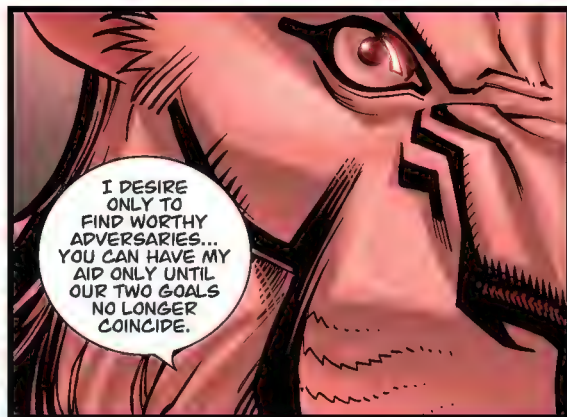
STEP THREE: ...?

WHO IS  
BRAVE ENOUGH  
TO FREE  
**BATTLE  
BEAST?!**

CHECK.



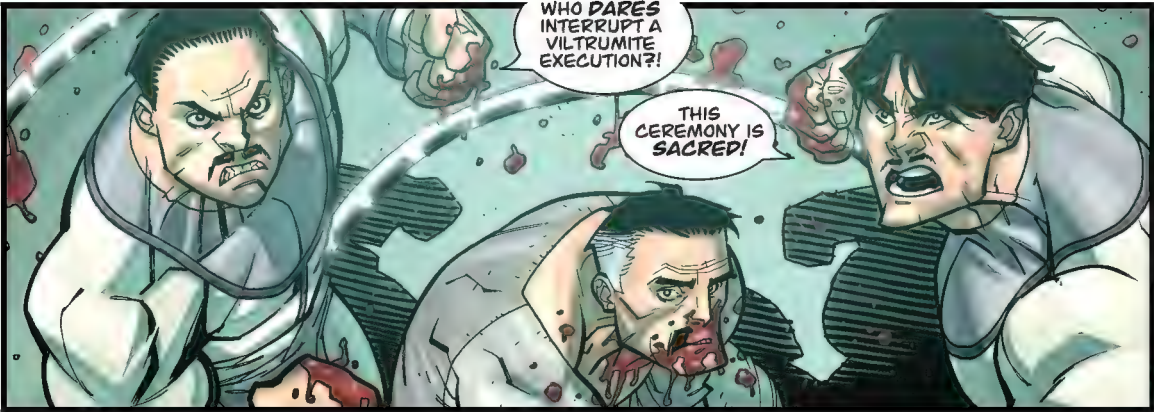




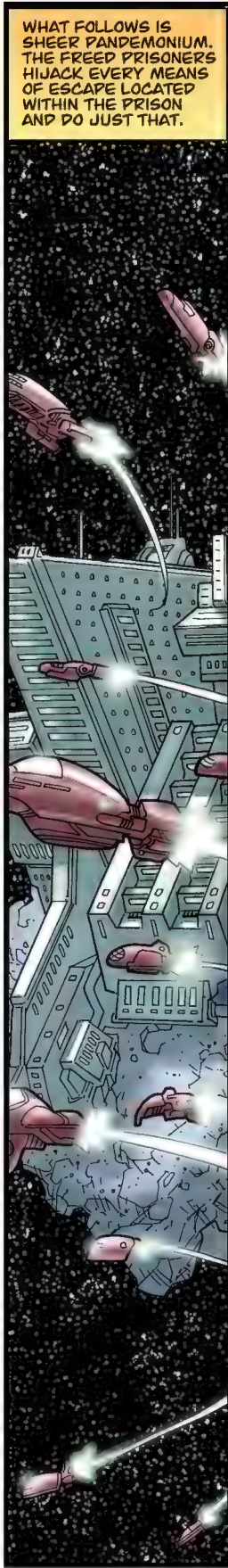












WHAT FOLLOWS IS SHEER PANDEMONIUM. THE FREED PRISONERS HIJACK EVERY MEANS OF ESCAPE LOCATED WITHIN THE PRISON AND DO JUST THAT.



ALLEN'S NEW FRIEND, BATTLE BEAST, FOCUSES ONLY ON ONE VILTRUMITE, HELPING ONLY BY KEEPING HIM OCCUPIED.

HE HAS FOUND HIS WORTHY ADVERSARY AND IS CONTENT TO SIMPLY ENJOY THE BATTLE.



THIS LEAVES NOLAN AND ALLEN ALONE TO FACE THE REMAINING VILTRUMITE EXECUTIONER-- AND HIS ARMY OF SUPER-POWERED PRISON GUARDS.

IT ISN'T A FIGHT EASILY WON.



BUT IT'S NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING ON THEIR PART.

HOLD UP--

I'VE GOT AN IDEA! WE CAN SURVIVE OUT IN SPACE--



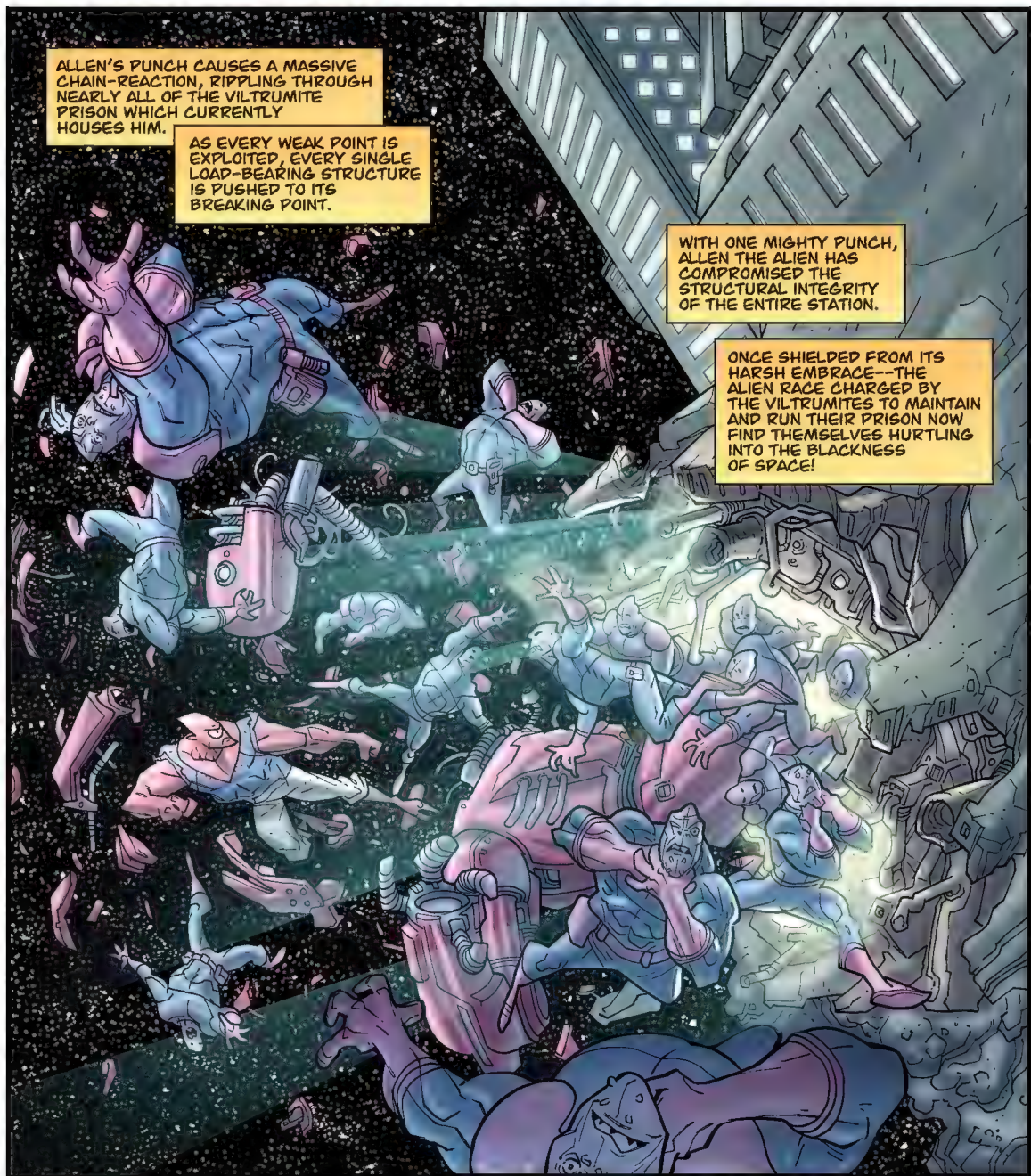


ALLEN'S PUNCH CAUSES A MASSIVE CHAIN-REACTION, RIPPLING THROUGH NEARLY ALL OF THE VILTRUMITE PRISON WHICH CURRENTLY HOUSES HIM.

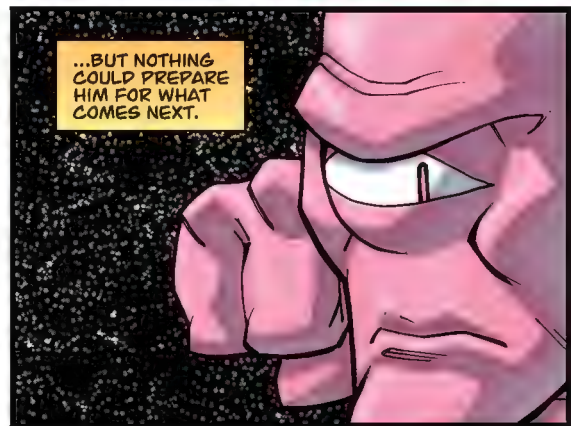
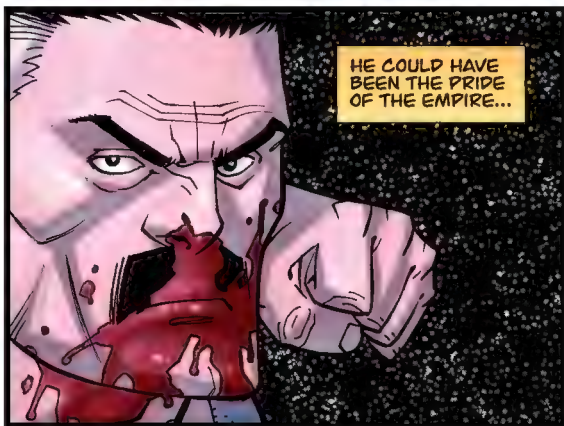
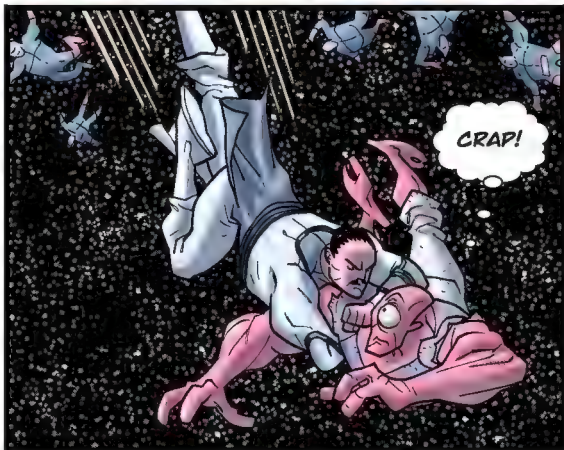
AS EVERY WEAK POINT IS EXPLOITED, EVERY SINGLE LOAD-BEARING STRUCTURE IS PUSHED TO ITS BREAKING POINT.

WITH ONE MIGHTY PUNCH, ALLEN THE ALIEN HAS COMPROMISED THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE ENTIRE STATION.

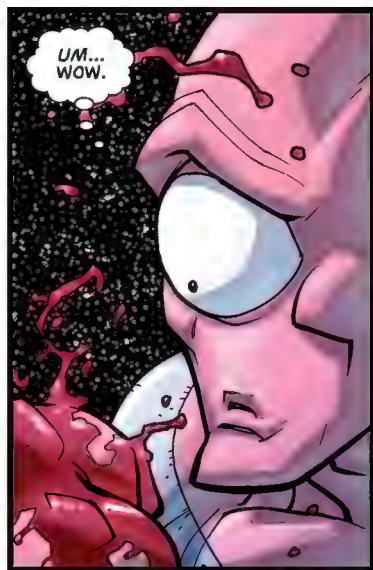
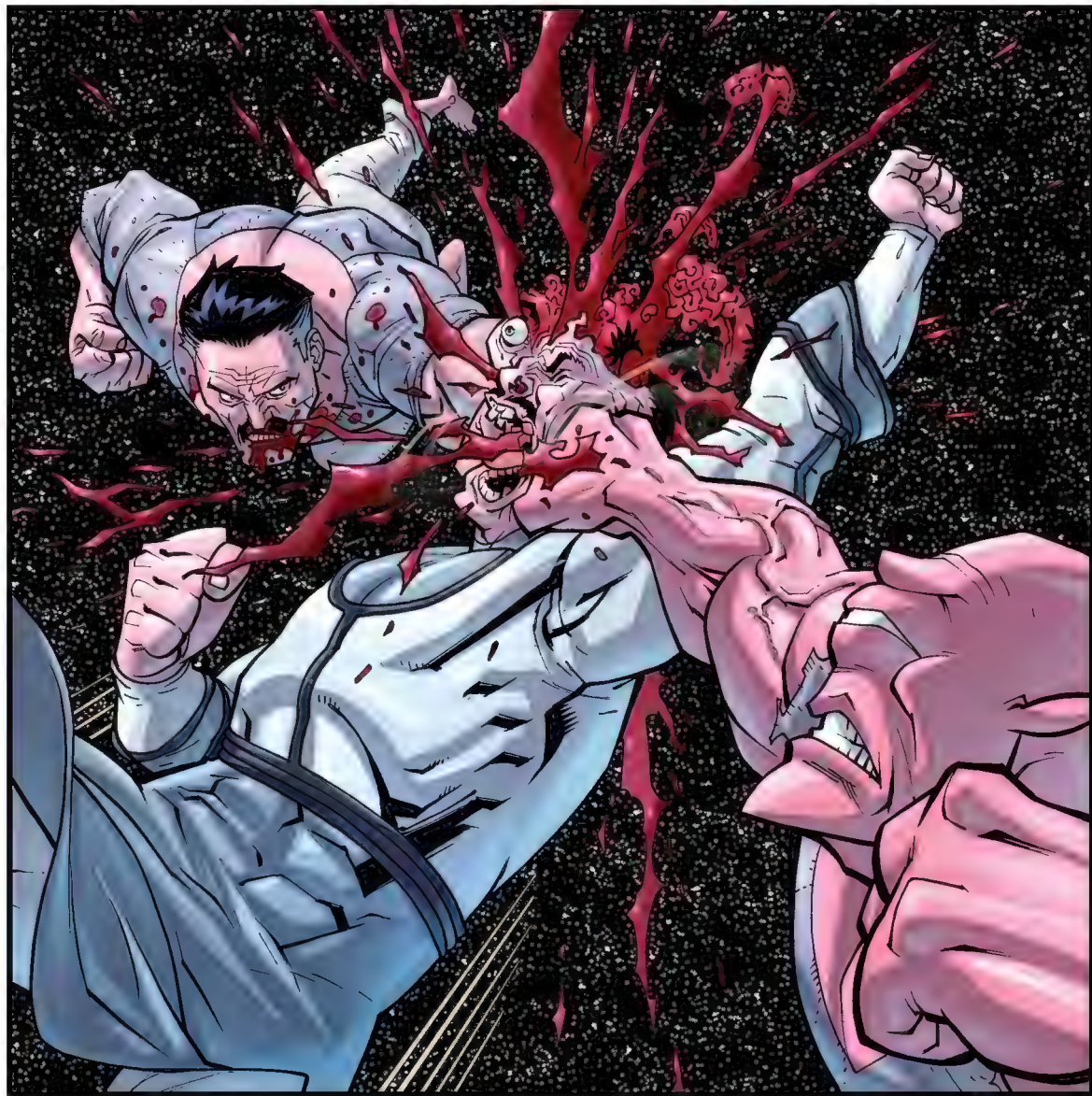
ONCE SHIELDED FROM ITS HARSH EMBRACE--THE ALIEN RACE CHARGED BY THE VILTRUMITES TO MAINTAIN AND RUN THEIR PRISON NOW FIND THEMSELVES HURLING INTO THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE!















WHERE'S  
THAT OTHER  
VILTRUMITE--  
AND MY FURRY  
FRIEND?

I HAVEN'T  
SEEN THEM SINCE  
YOU DEMOLISHED  
THAT WALL AND  
SENT US OUT HERE--  
YOU THINK HE  
COULD SURVIVE  
OUT HERE?

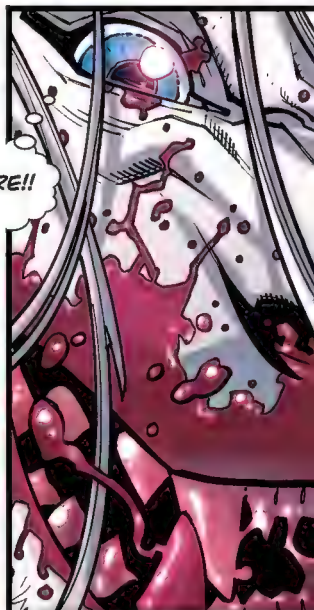
NO DOUBT.  
MAYBE HE JUST  
RAN--BUT THEN  
WHERE'S THE  
VILTRUMITE?



MORE!

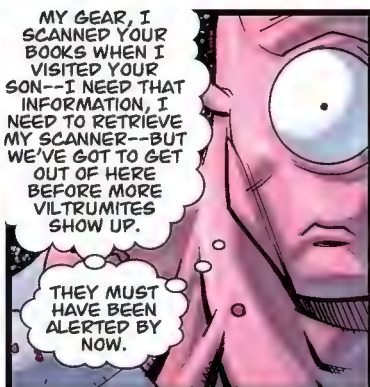
MORE!

MORE!!



CRAP!

WHAT  
IS IT?



MY GEAR, I  
SCANNED YOUR  
BOOKS WHEN I  
VISITED YOUR  
SON--I NEED THAT  
INFORMATION, I  
NEED TO RETRIEVE  
MY SCANNER--BUT  
WE'VE GOT TO GET  
OUT OF HERE  
BEFORE MORE  
VILTRUMITES  
SHOW UP.

THEY MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
ALERTED BY  
NOW.



YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.

WHY?



YOU HAVE  
TIME TO GET  
YOUR GEAR.  
TAKE YOUR TIME,  
WE'LL LOOK  
FOR MORE  
SUPPLIES.

TRUST  
ME... NO  
ONE IS  
COMING.

HOW DO  
YOU KNOW  
THAT? HOW  
CAN YOU  
BE SO  
SURE?



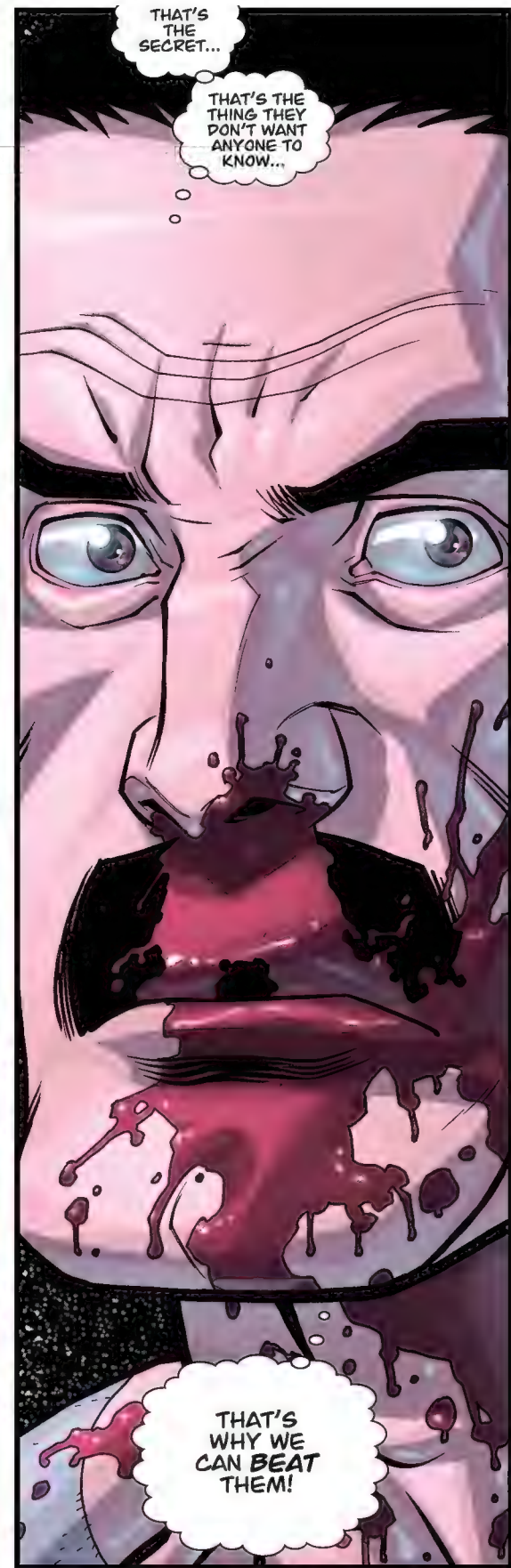


THEY'RE NOT COMING  
BECAUSE THERE IS NO  
ONE TO SEND. I AM  
CONFIDENT IN THIS  
BECAUSE I KNOW HOW  
FAR AWAY THE  
VILTRUMITES  
ARE.

MY EXECUTION  
WAS POSTPONED  
BECAUSE THEY WERE  
CALLED AWAY--IT WAS  
ONLY RECENTLY THEY  
WERE ABLE TO SEND  
BACK THE TWO AGENTS  
REQUIRED BY LAW FOR  
AN EXECUTION. THEY  
HAD NO ONE TO  
SPARE.

THE  
REASON  
FOR THIS IS  
SIMPLE...

THERE ARE  
LESS THAN FIFTY  
PURE-BLOODED  
VILTRUMITES LEFT  
ALIVE IN THE WHOLE  
UNIVERSE.



THAT'S  
THE  
SECRET...

THAT'S THE  
THING THEY  
DON'T WANT  
ANYONE TO  
KNOW...

THAT'S  
WHY WE  
CAN BEAT  
THEM!



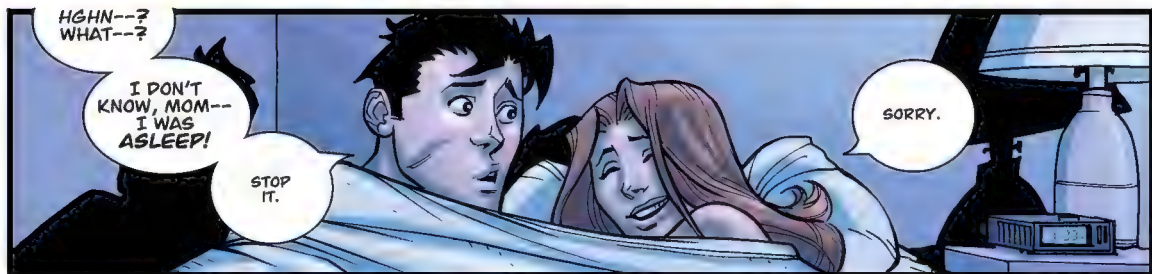


WITH THE STORY NOW TOLD AND NOLAN AND ALLEN FINALLY FREE FROM THE VILTRUMITE PRISON ABLE TO FULFILL THEIR DESTINY--WE TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO THE GRAYSON HOUSEHOLD.



MARK?! WHY'S THIS DOOR LOCKED?

WHAT'S GOING ON?



HGHN---? WHAT---

I DON'T KNOW, MOM-- I WAS ASLEEP!

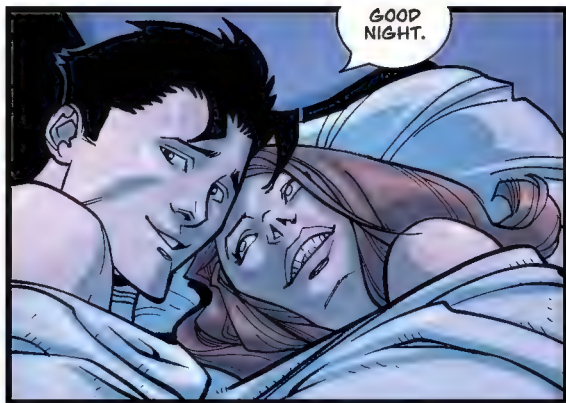
STOP IT.

SORRY.



OH, SORRY... I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING.

GOOD NIGHT.



GOOD NIGHT.





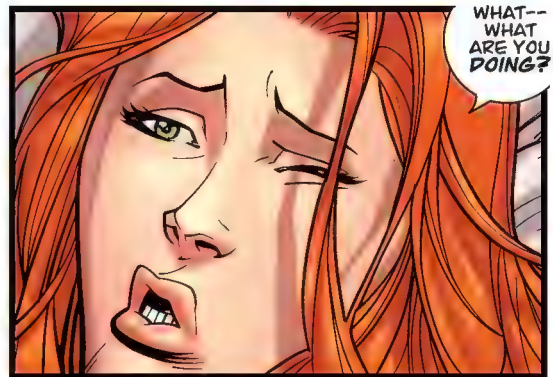
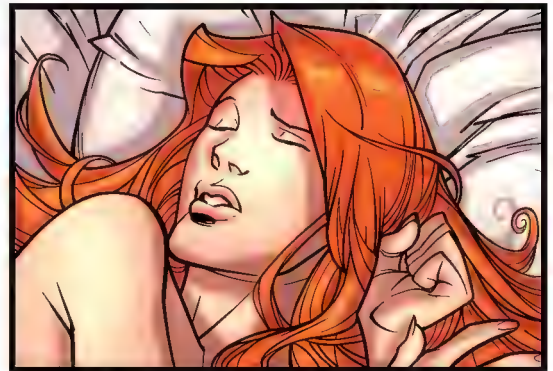
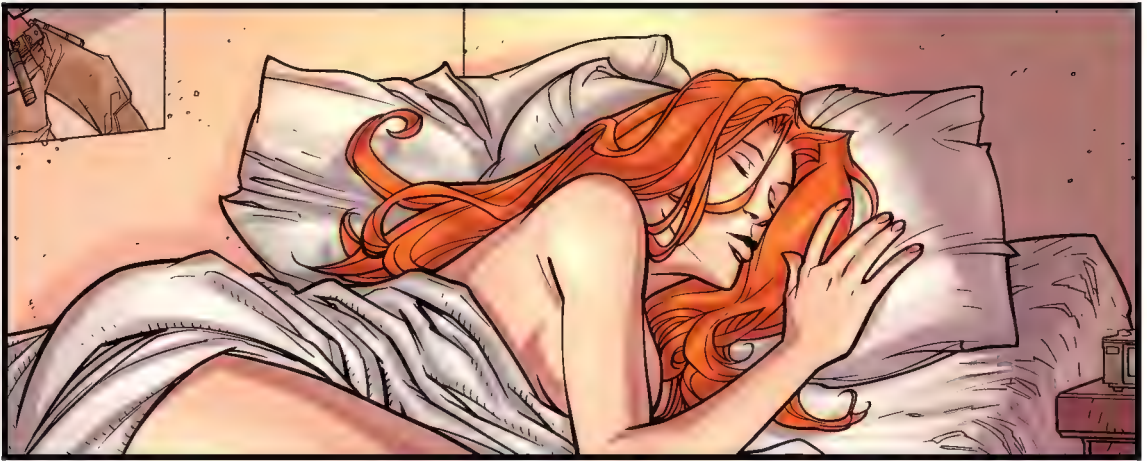
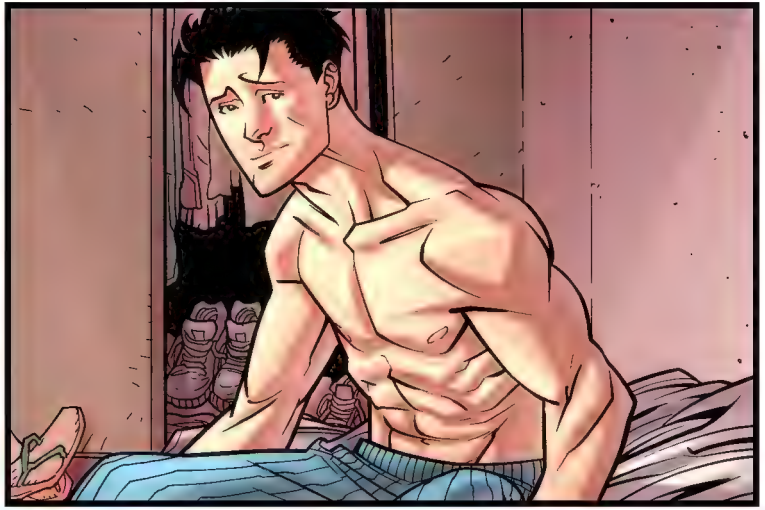
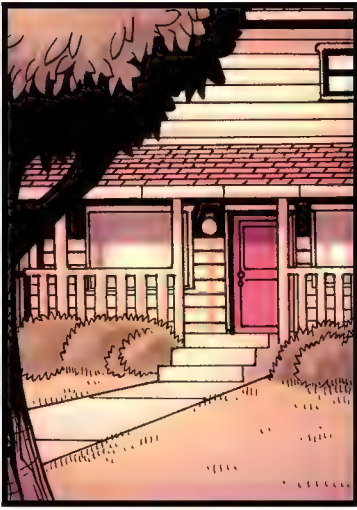




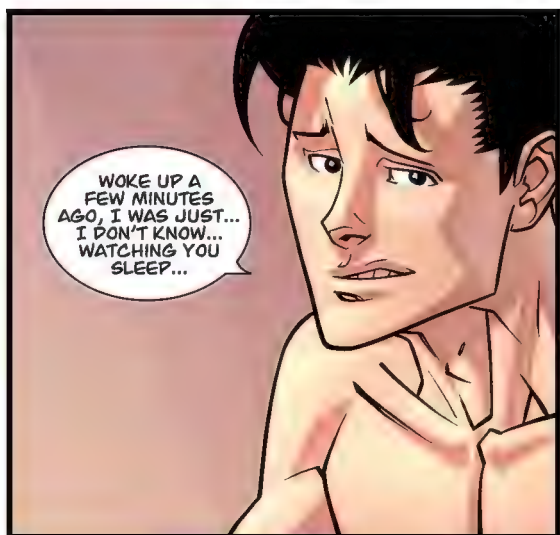
# CHAPTER THREE



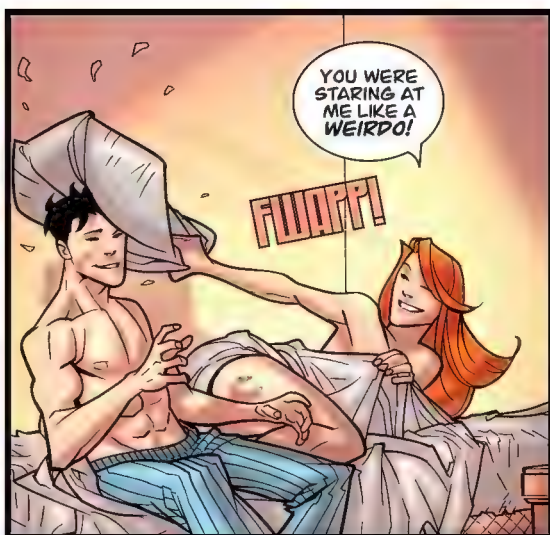






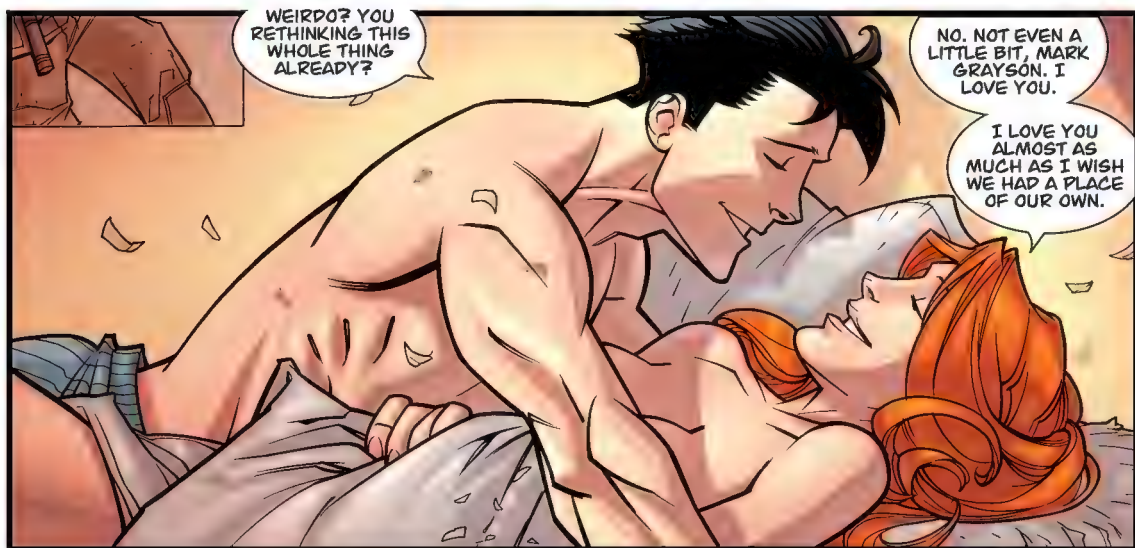


WOKE UP A FEW MINUTES AGO, I WAS JUST... I DON'T KNOW... WATCHING YOU SLEEP...



YOU WERE STARING AT ME LIKE A WEIRDO!

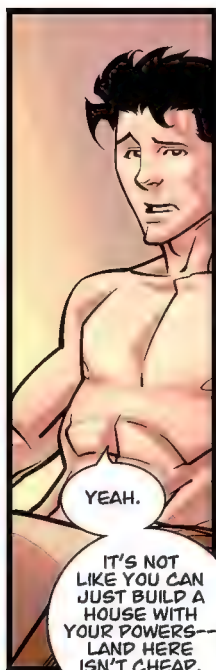
FWUP!



WEIRDO? YOU RETHINKING THIS WHOLE THING ALREADY?

NO. NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT, MARK GRAYSON. I LOVE YOU.

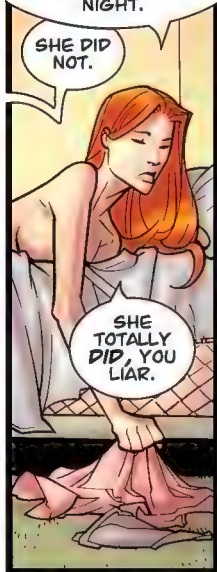
I LOVE YOU ALMOST AS MUCH AS I WISH WE HAD A PLACE OF OUR OWN.



YEAH.

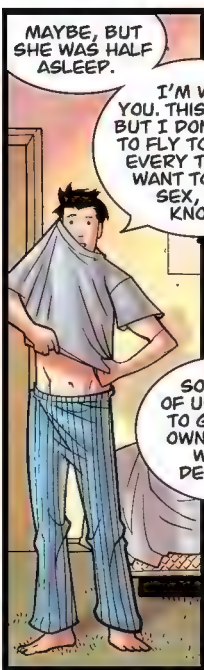
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN JUST BUILD A HOUSE WITH YOUR POWERS--LAND HERE ISN'T CHEAP.

THIS ISN'T COOL. YOUR MOM'S WHAT--TEN FEET AWAY WHILE WE'RE DOING THIS? SHE HEARD US LAST NIGHT.



SHE DID NOT.

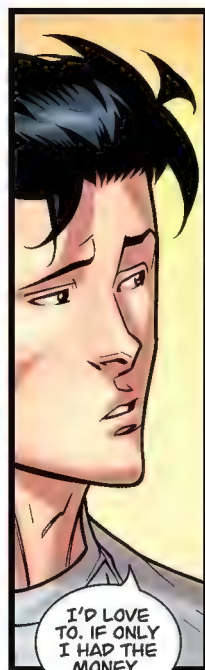
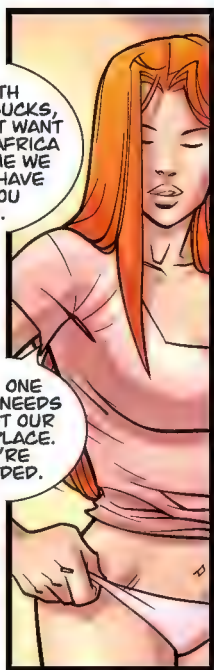
SHE TOTALLY DID, YOU LIAR.



MAYBE, BUT SHE WAS HALF ASLEEP.

I'M WITH YOU. THIS SUCKS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO FLY TO AFRICA EVERY TIME WE WANT TO HAVE SEX, YOU KNOW.

SO... ONE OF US NEEDS TO GET OUR OWN PLACE. WE'RE DECIDED.

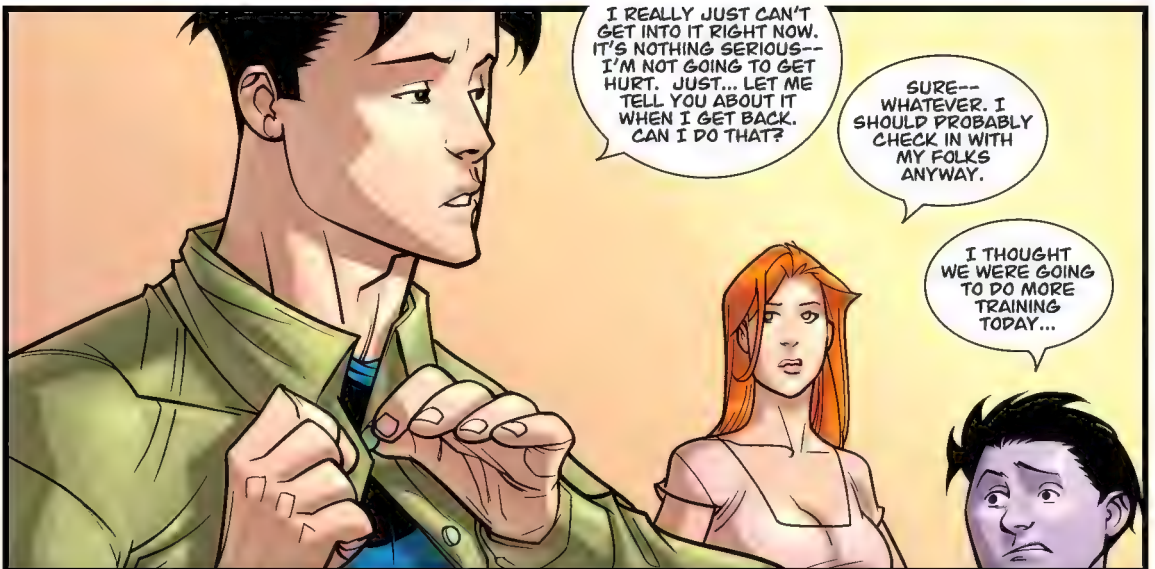
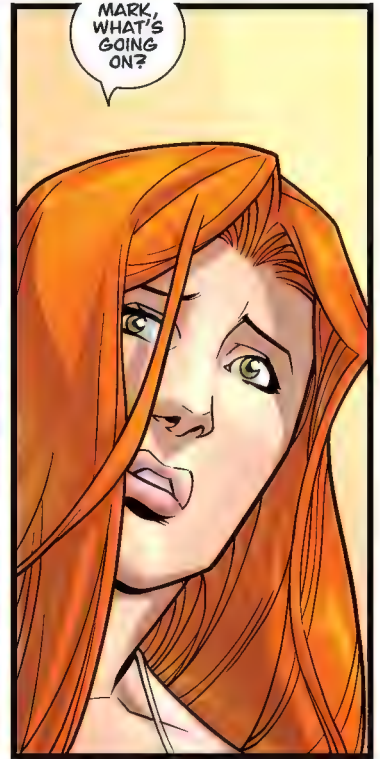


I'D LOVE TO. IF ONLY I HAD THE MONEY.

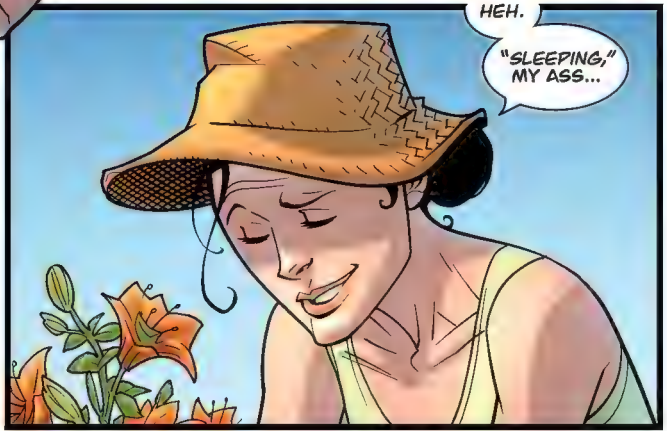
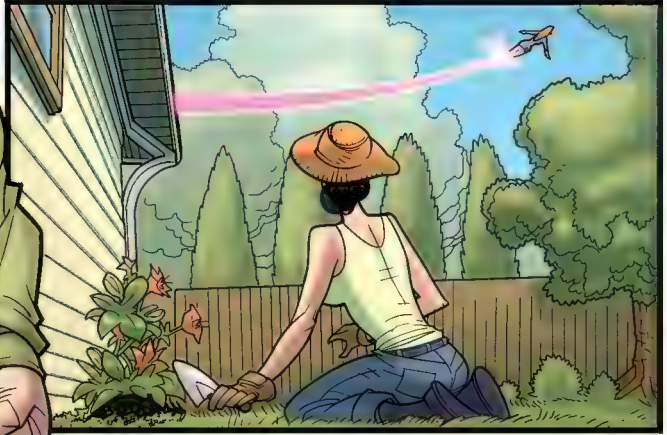
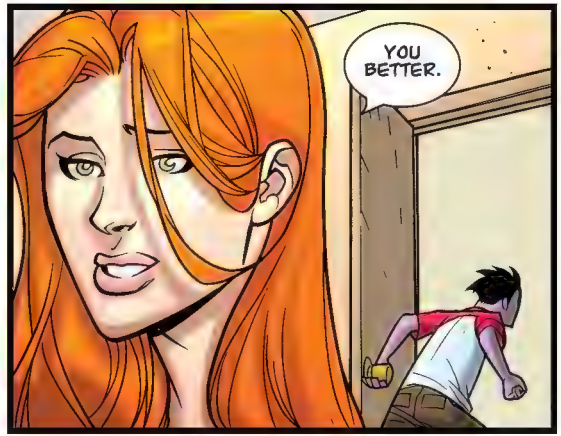








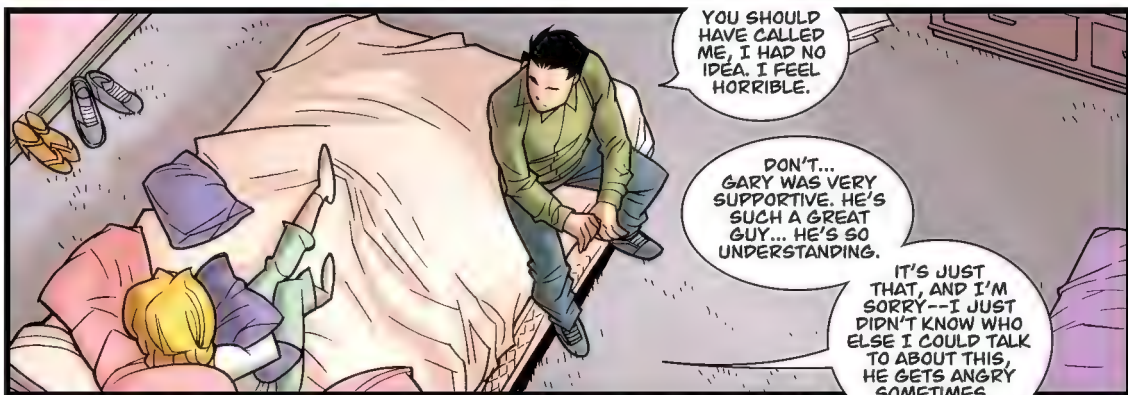




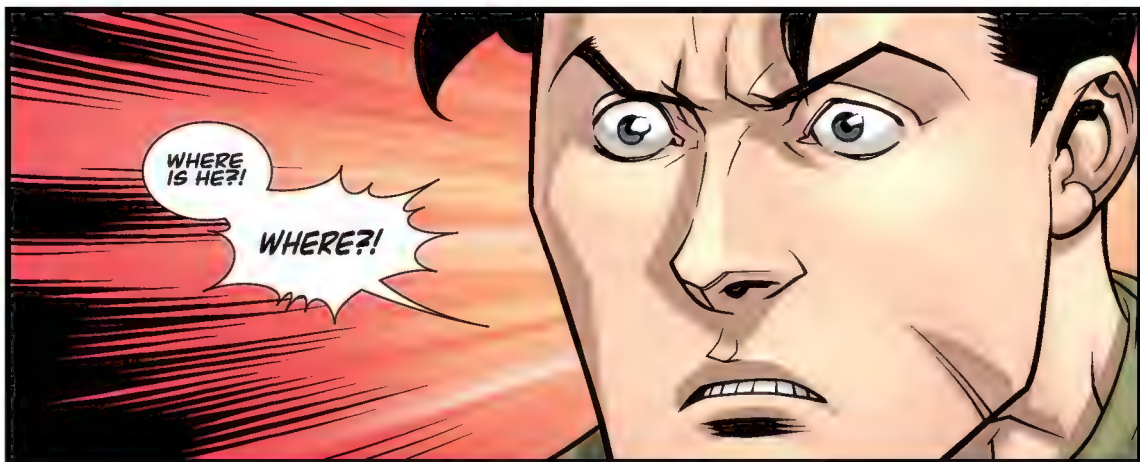
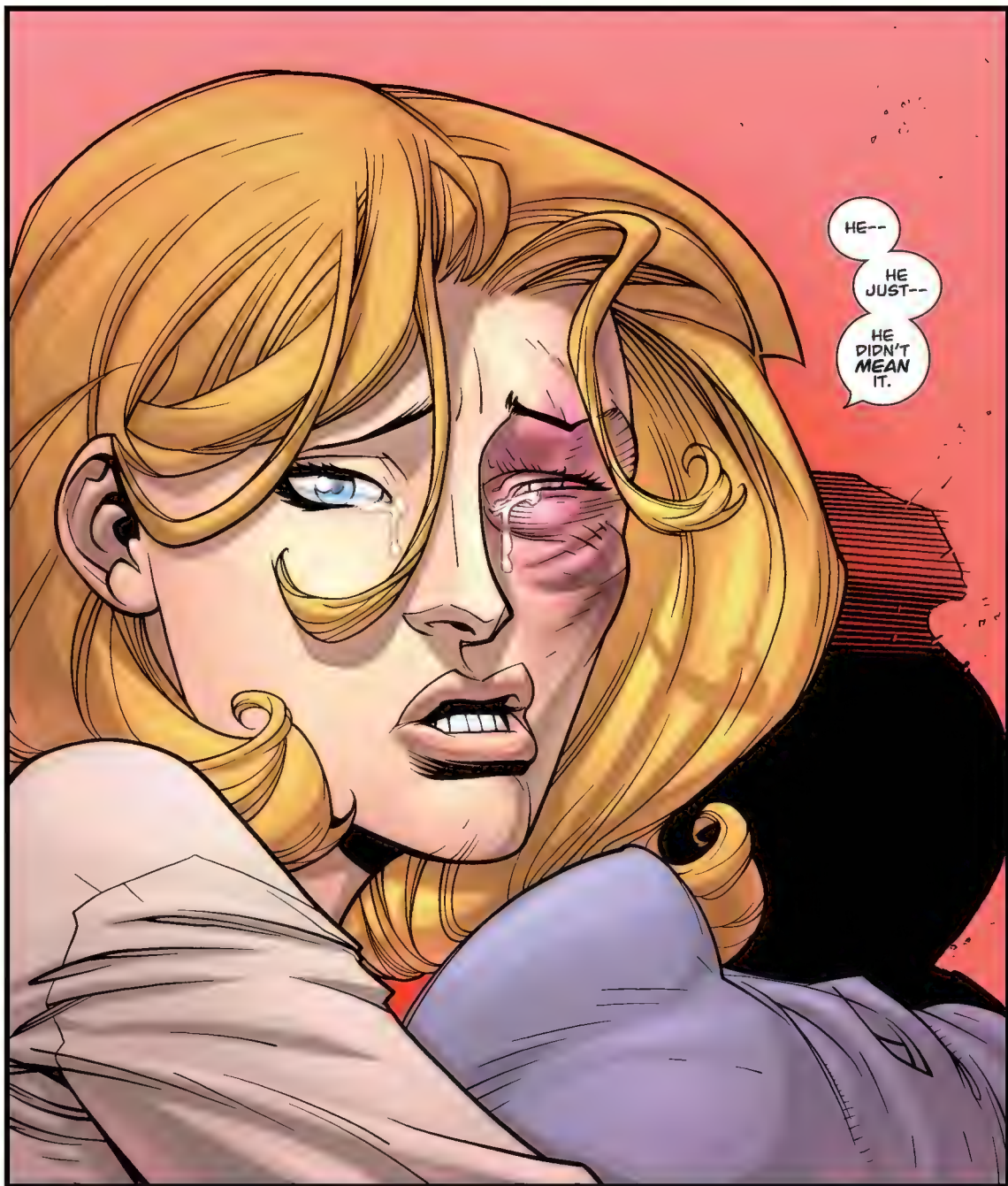




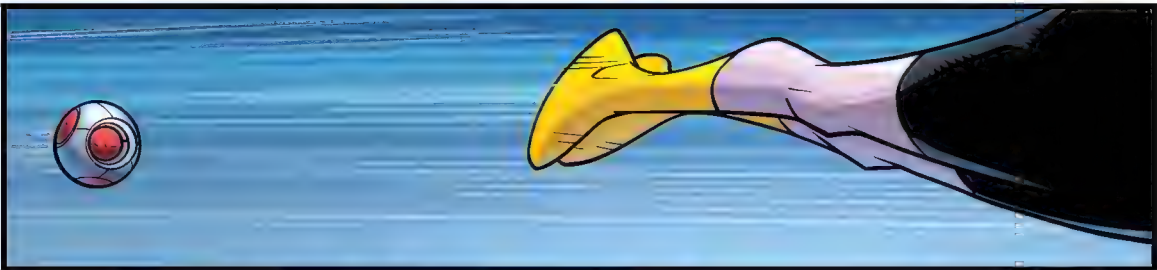
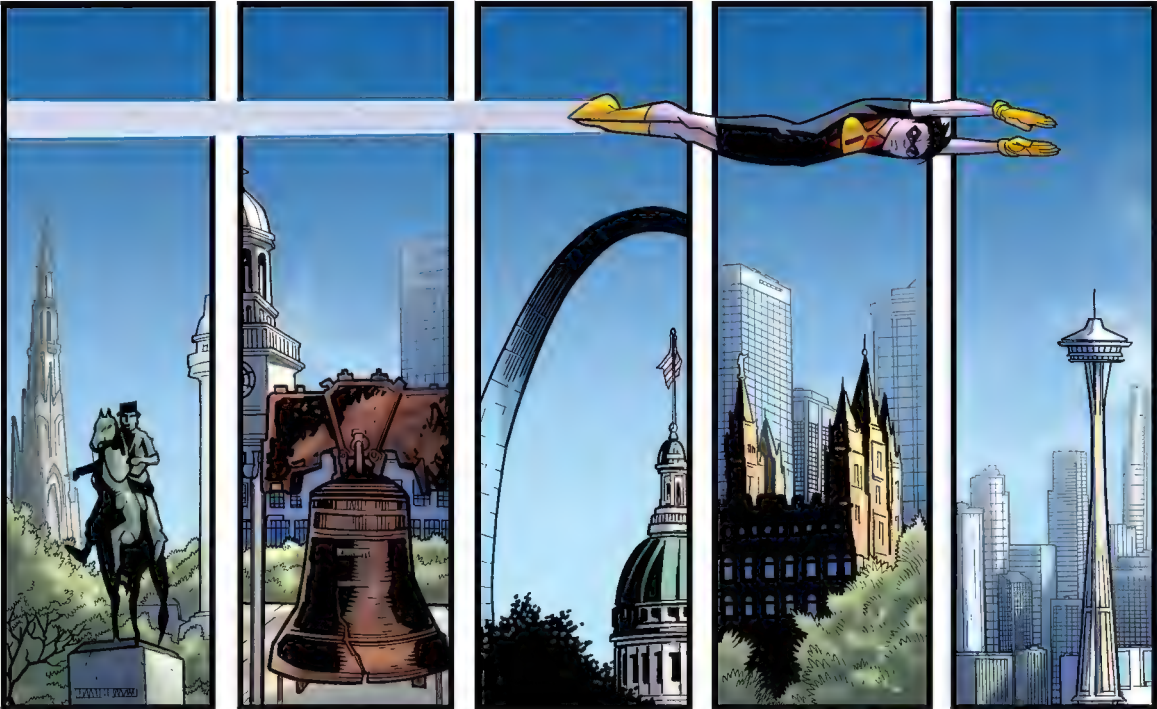




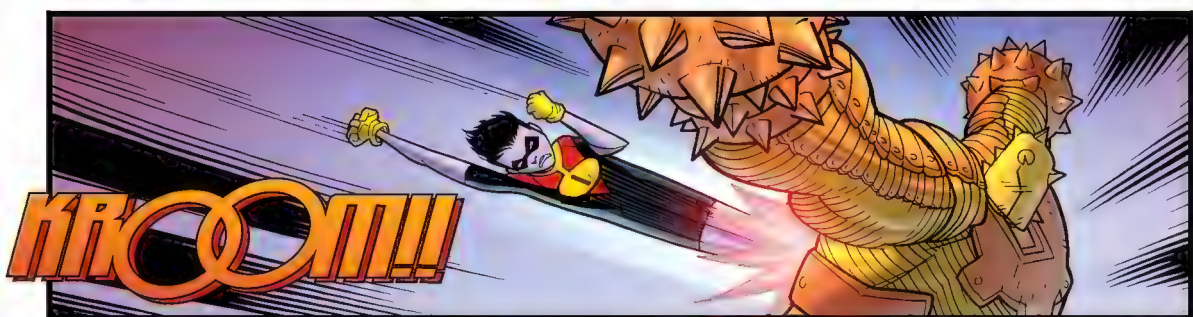












I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT!





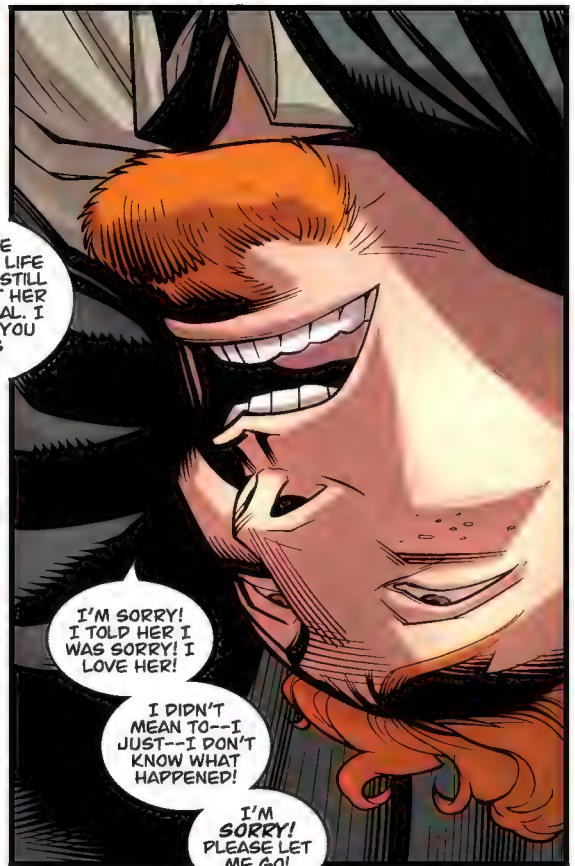
PLEASE?!  
PLEASE  
DON'T!!

OH, GOD--  
PLEASE!!

YOU DON'T  
GET TO DO WHAT  
YOU DID! YOU  
DON'T EVER HURT  
HER AGAIN!

EVER!

I MAY BE  
OUT OF HER LIFE  
NOW, BUT I STILL  
CARE ABOUT HER  
A GREAT DEAL. I  
WON'T LET YOU  
DO THIS  
AGAIN!



I'M SORRY!  
I TOLD HER I  
WAS SORRY! I  
LOVE HER!

I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO--I  
JUST--I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED!

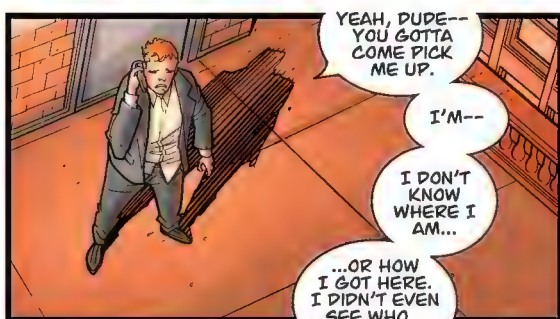
I'M  
SORRY!  
PLEASE LET  
ME GO!



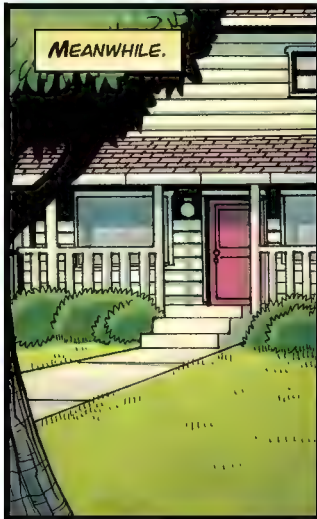
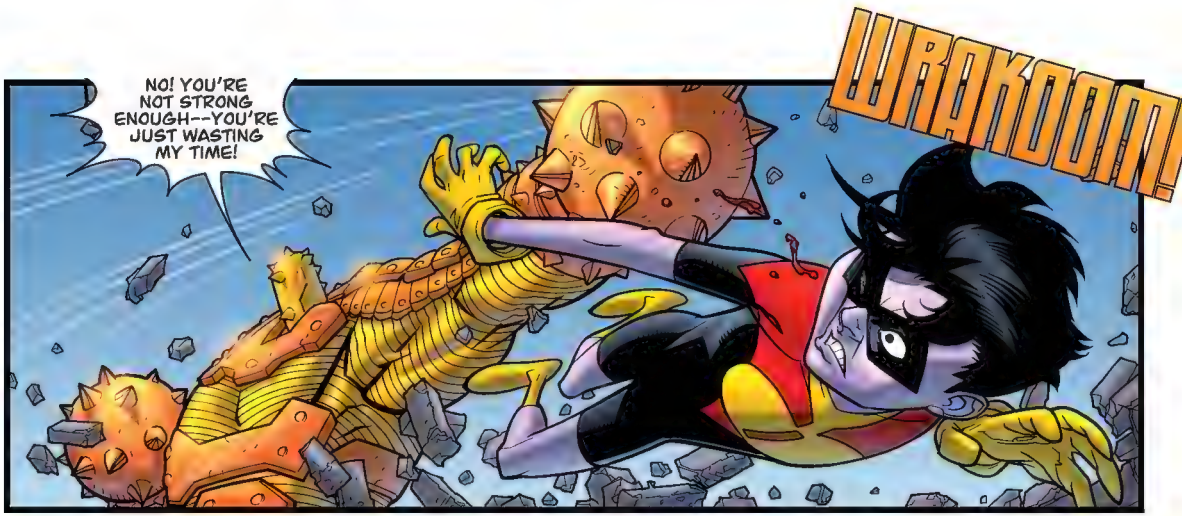
YOU HURT  
HER AGAIN--  
I'LL KNOW  
ABOUT IT...

...AND I  
WILL KILL  
YOU!





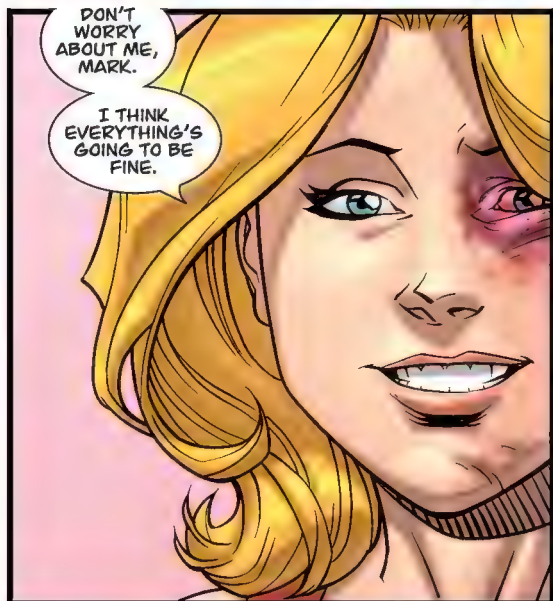
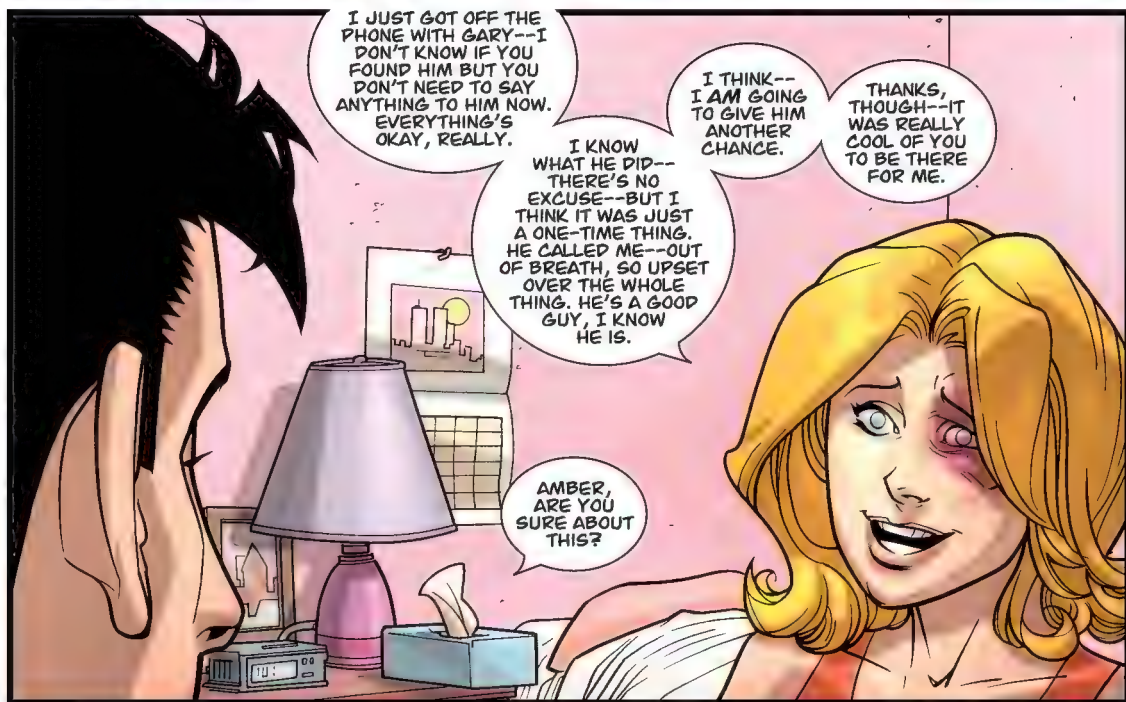




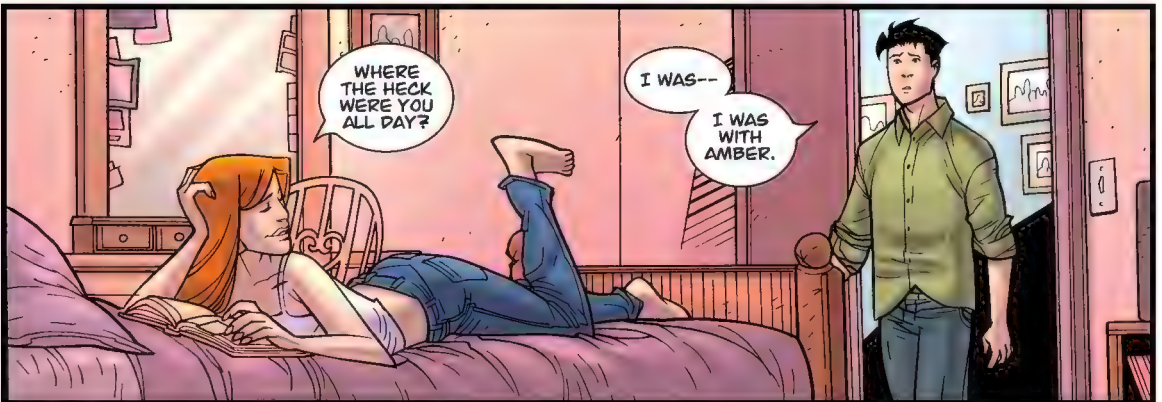
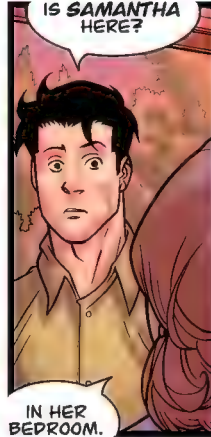
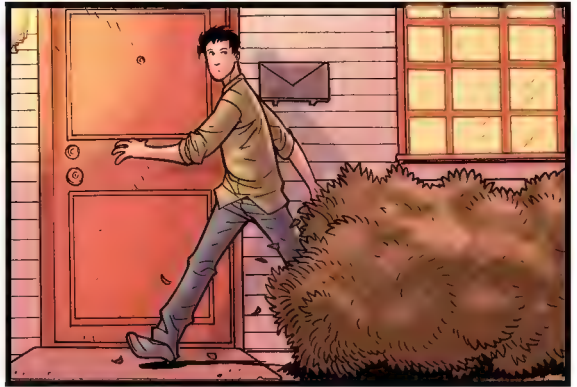
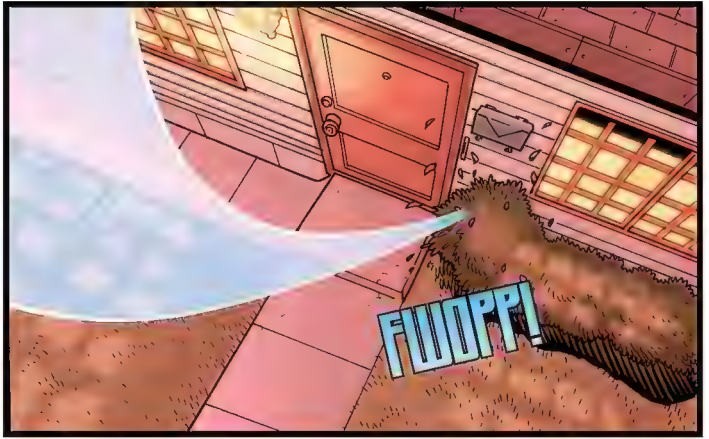
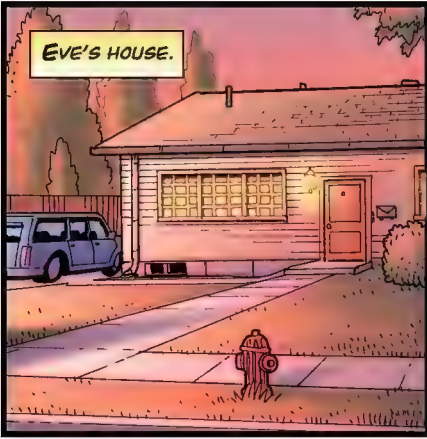














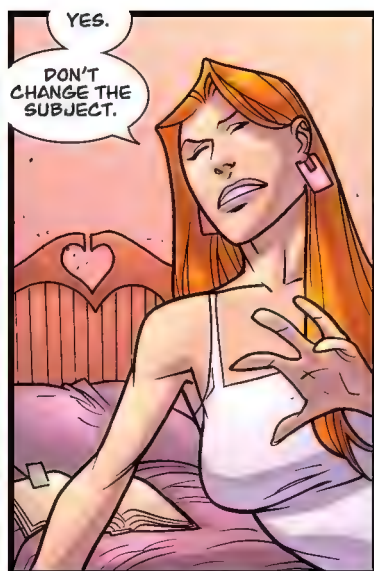


OH,  
WERE  
YOU  
NOW?!

THERE  
ARE LIMITS  
TO HOW COOL  
I CAN BE  
ABOUT  
STUFF.

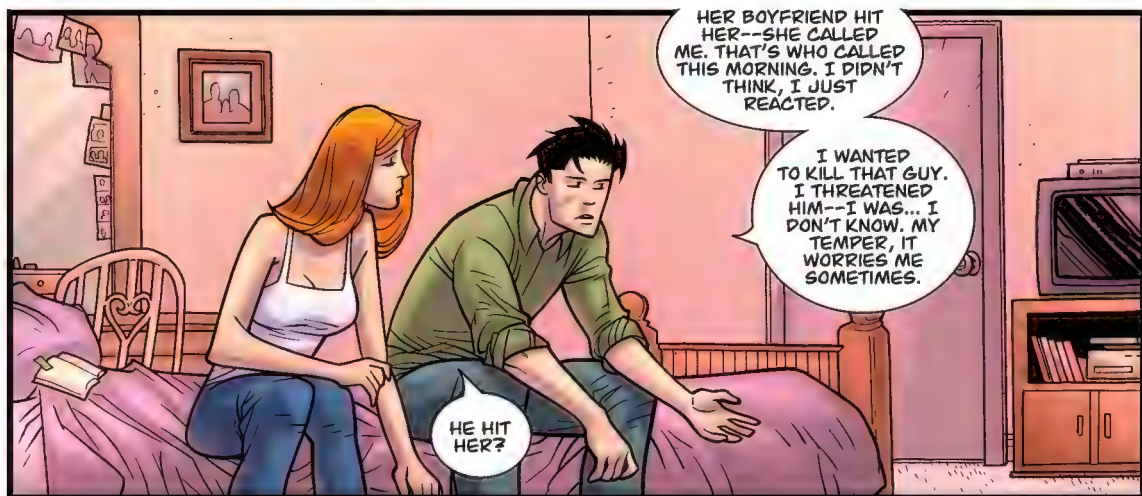


DOES  
YOUR MOM  
HATE IT WHEN  
PEOPLE CALL  
YOU EVE?



YES.

DON'T  
CHANGE THE  
SUBJECT.



HER BOYFRIEND HIT  
HER--SHE CALLED  
ME. THAT'S WHO CALLED  
THIS MORNING. I DIDN'T  
THINK, I JUST  
REACTED.

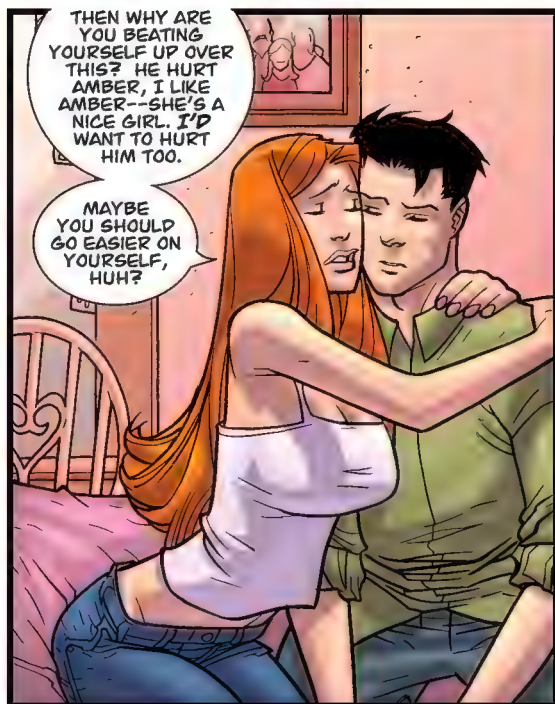
I WANTED  
TO KILL THAT GUY.  
I THREATENED  
HIM--I WAS... I  
DON'T KNOW. MY  
TEMPER, IT  
WORRIES ME  
SOMETIMES.

HE HIT  
HER?



YEAH. HURT  
HER PRETTY BAD.  
HER EYE IS ALL  
SWOLLEN, SHE'S  
SCRAPED UP.

GUY'S  
A REAL  
JERK.



THEN WHY ARE  
YOU BEATING  
YOURSELF UP OVER  
THIS? HE HURT  
AMBER, I LIKE  
AMBER--SHE'S A  
NICE GIRL. I'D  
WANT TO HURT  
HIM TOO.

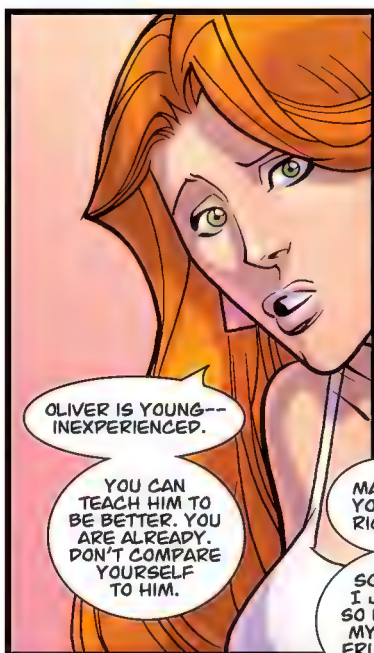
MAYBE  
YOU SHOULD  
GO EASIER ON  
YOURSELF,  
HUH?





I'VE GOT SO MUCH...  
POWER. I JUST, I  
HAVE TO MAKE SURE  
I CAN CONTROL  
IT.

IT'S HARD  
NOT TO LOSE  
CONTROL.  
LOOK AT  
OLIVER.



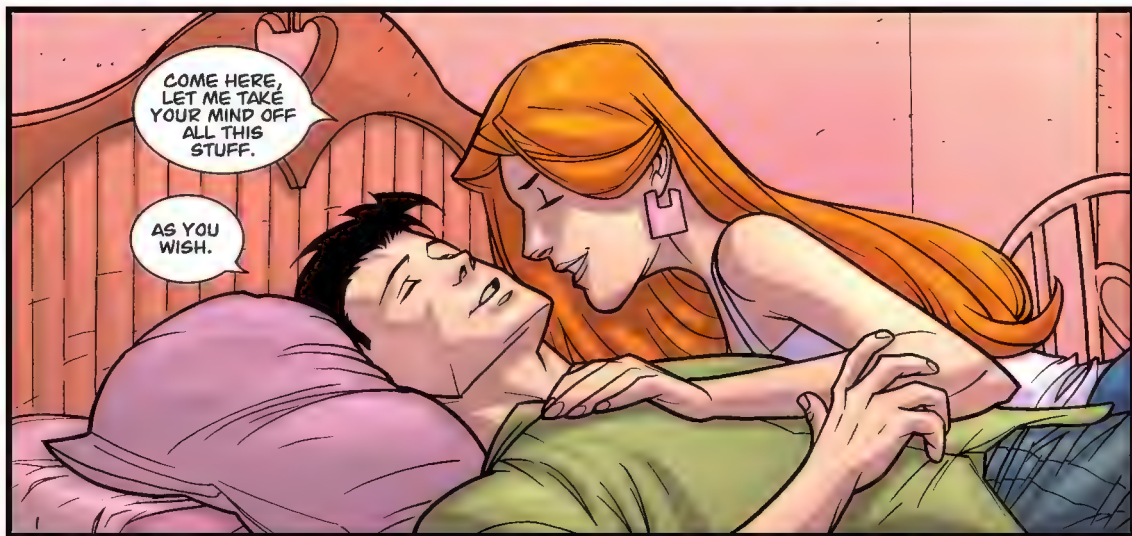
OLIVER IS YOUNG--  
INEXPERIENCED.

YOU CAN  
TEACH HIM TO  
BE BETTER. YOU  
ARE ALREADY.  
DON'T COMPARE  
YOURSELF  
TO HIM.



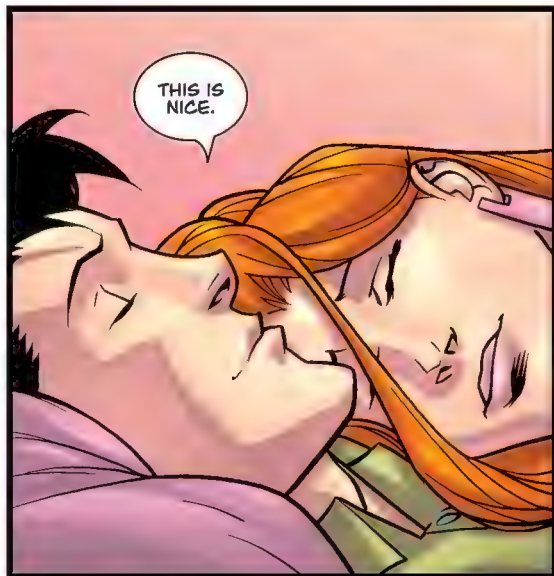
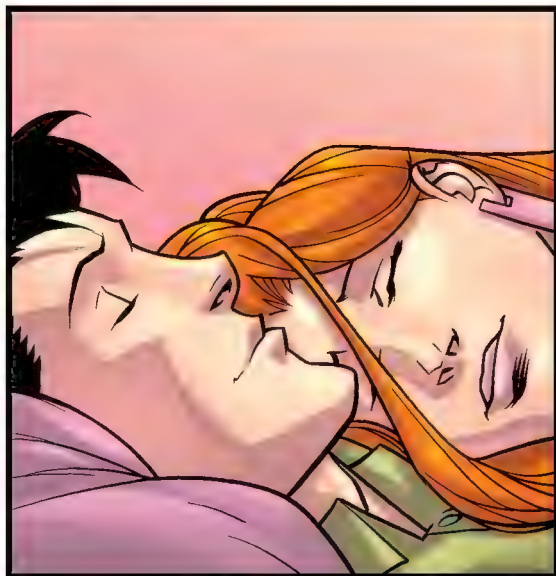
MAYBE  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

SOMETIMES  
I JUST FEEL  
SO UNSURE OF  
MYSELF. IT'S  
FRUSTRATING.



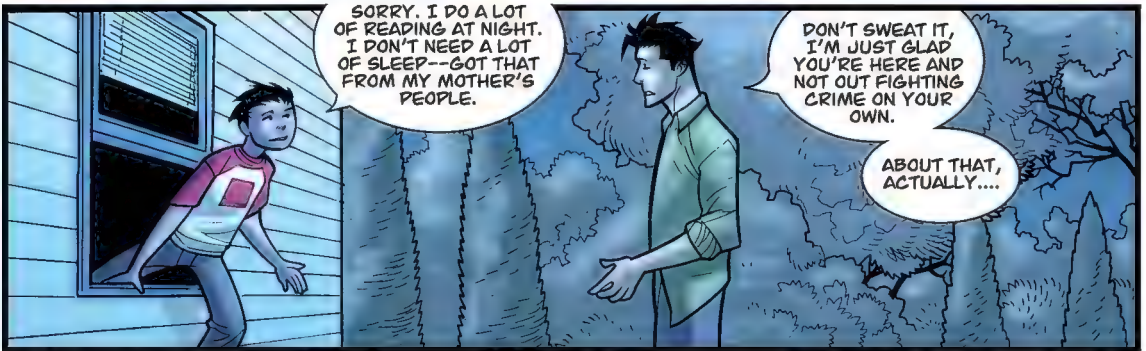
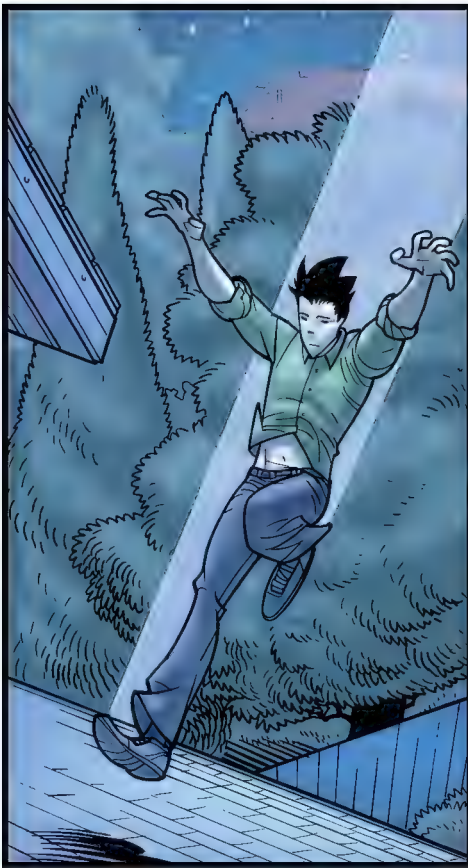
COME HERE,  
LET ME TAKE  
YOUR MIND OFF  
ALL THIS  
STUFF.

AS YOU  
WISH.



THIS IS  
NICE.











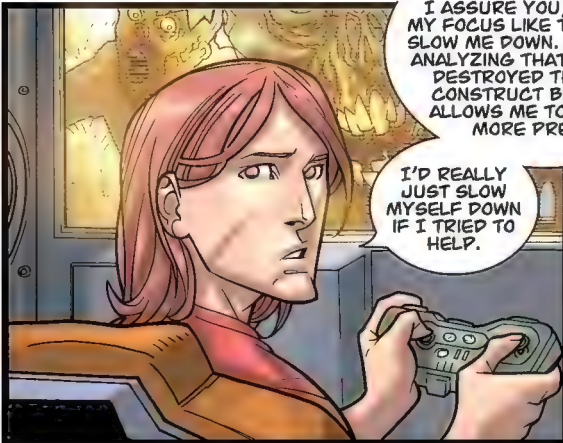
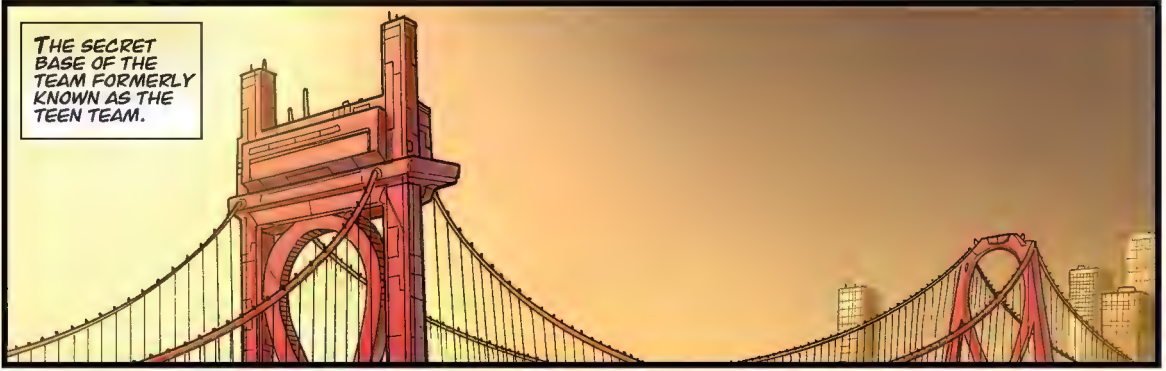




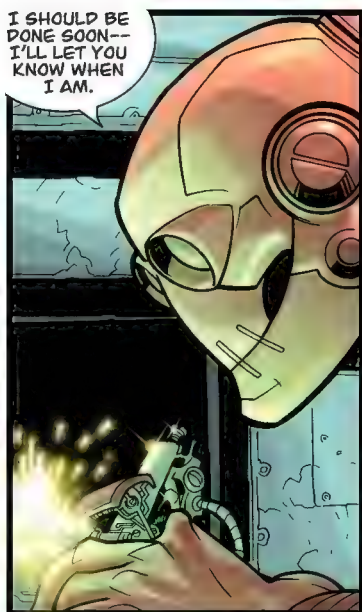
# CHAPTER FOUR



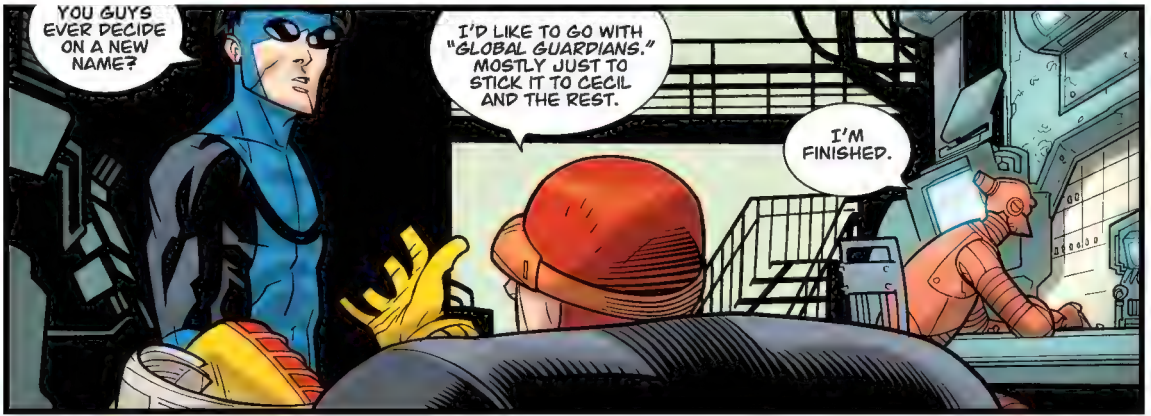




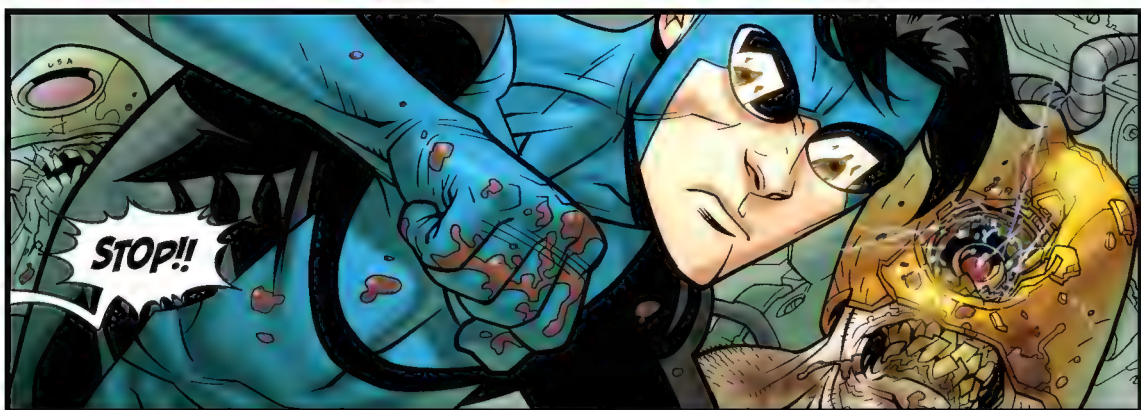
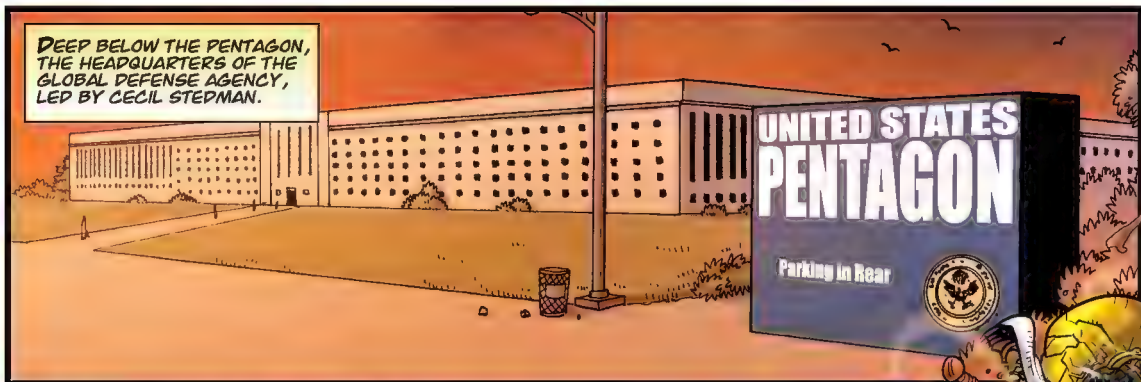




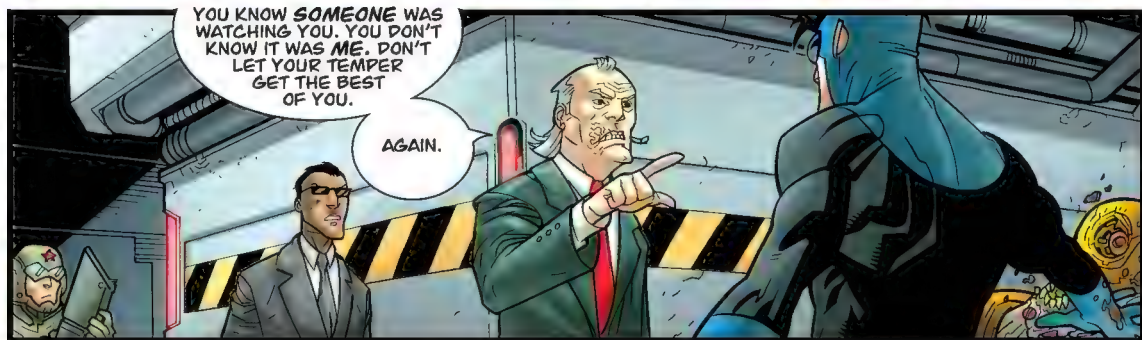
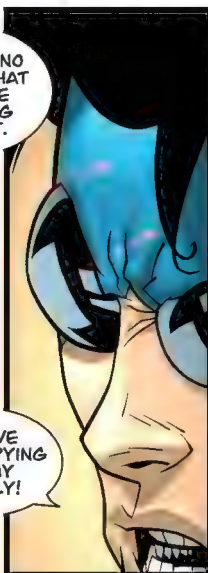
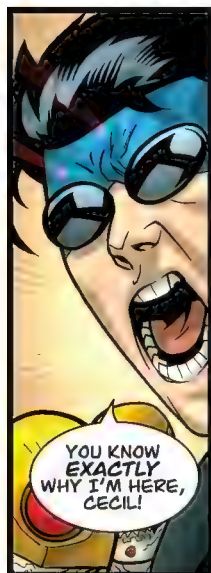














SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YOU SURVIVED--  
GOOD. THAT'S  
ANOTHER OF MY  
TESTS YOU'VE  
SURVIVED.  
IMPRESSIVE.

IT WASN'T  
EASY... BUT I  
MADE IT. WHAT'S  
NEXT? I CAN  
HARDLY WAIT TO  
SEE WHAT YOU  
HAVE PLANNED  
FOR ME  
NOW.

TONIGHT YOUR TEST  
WILL NOT COME FROM  
ME... THERE ARE  
OTHERS WHO CONTROL  
YOUR FATE THIS  
EVENING.

OTHERS?  
WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN?

I CAN SENSE IT.  
THERE ARE MANY  
DANGERS IN  
THE FOREST  
TONIGHT.

**RUNNABLE!!**









NO WAY!  
ARE YOU  
KIDDING  
ME?!

OF COURSE  
NOT--WHY IN THE  
WORLD WOULD I  
HELP YOU? I DON'T  
WORK FOR YOU, CECIL--  
I DON'T LIKE YOU.



GET REAL HERE, KID.  
YOU THINK FOR A MINUTE  
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP  
TONIGHT KNOWING THIS  
GUY IS OUT THERE--  
KNOWING WHAT  
HE DID?

I KNOW  
YOU TOO  
WELL.



LOOK, KID--  
YOU THINK WE  
WANT TO ASK  
FOR THIS? I  
TRIED TO TAKE  
THIS GUY  
OUT--AND I  
FAILED.

HE'S TOUGH--  
BUT YOU COULD  
PROBABLY GET  
THIS GUY FOR US  
IN AN AFTERNOON.



EXCEPT--  
Y'KNOW--  
I DON'T  
TRUST  
YOU  
PEOPLE!

HAVEN'T YOU WATCHED  
THE NEWS? THIS MAN  
MURDERED HIS WIFE IN  
COLD BLOOD! HIS  
DAUGHTER SAW THE  
WHOLE THING. HE  
ABANDONED HER--  
RUINED HER  
LIFE!

THIS MAN WAS  
A BILLIONAIRE! HE  
THOUGHT HE WAS  
ABOVE THE LAW.  
NOW HE'S OUT THERE--  
ROAMING FREE,  
ABLE TO KILL  
AGAIN.

I COULD  
SEND THE  
GUARDIANS OF  
THE GLOBE--  
BUT YOU COULD  
FIND HIM FASTER--  
YOU COULD STOP  
HIM EASIER.



JUST HELP  
ME THIS  
ONCE--IF YOU  
DO, I'LL HAVE  
MY PEOPLE  
LOOK OVER THIS  
ORB YOU THINK  
I WAS SPYING  
ON YOU WITH--  
SEE IF WE CAN'T  
FIND OUT WHO'S  
WATCHING  
YOU, AND WHY.

DEAL?



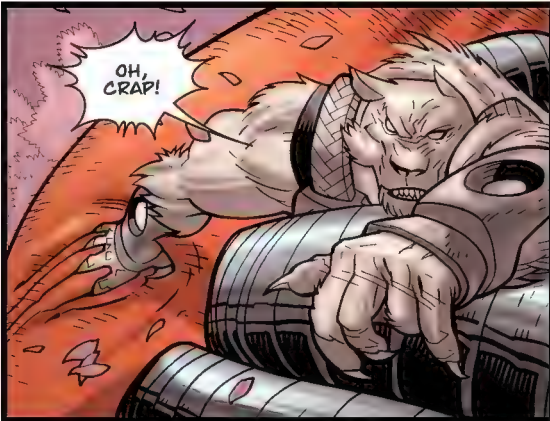
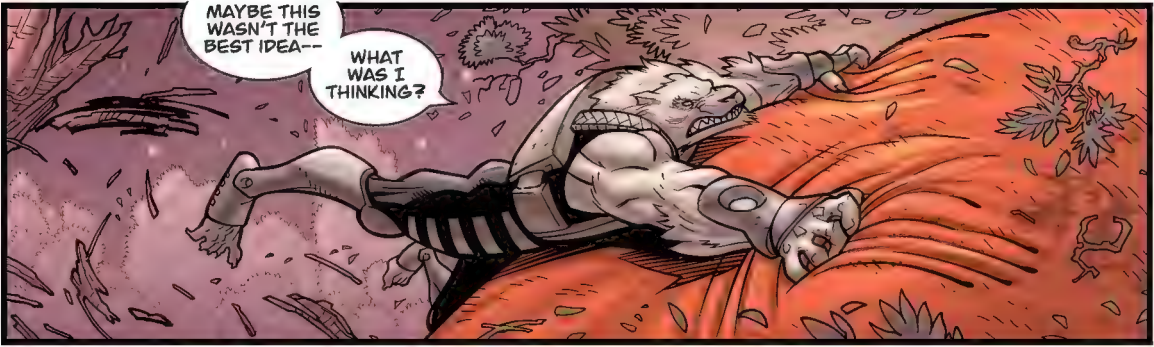
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE  
ANYONE SMARTER THAN  
ROBOT ON STAFF--SO  
THAT OFFER DOESN'T  
MEAN MUCH.



CRAP--WE'VE GOT  
A PROBLEM. THE GIANT  
HAS ESCAPED AND  
IS ON A RAMPAGE--HE'S  
TEARING THROUGH--  
WELL--THE EXACT SAME  
REGION WOLF-MAN  
WAS LAST SEEN.

TWO BIRDS  
WITH ONE  
STONE?









COULD  
HAVE GONE  
THE REST OF MY  
LIFE WITHOUT  
FIGHTING  
THIS GUY  
AGAIN.



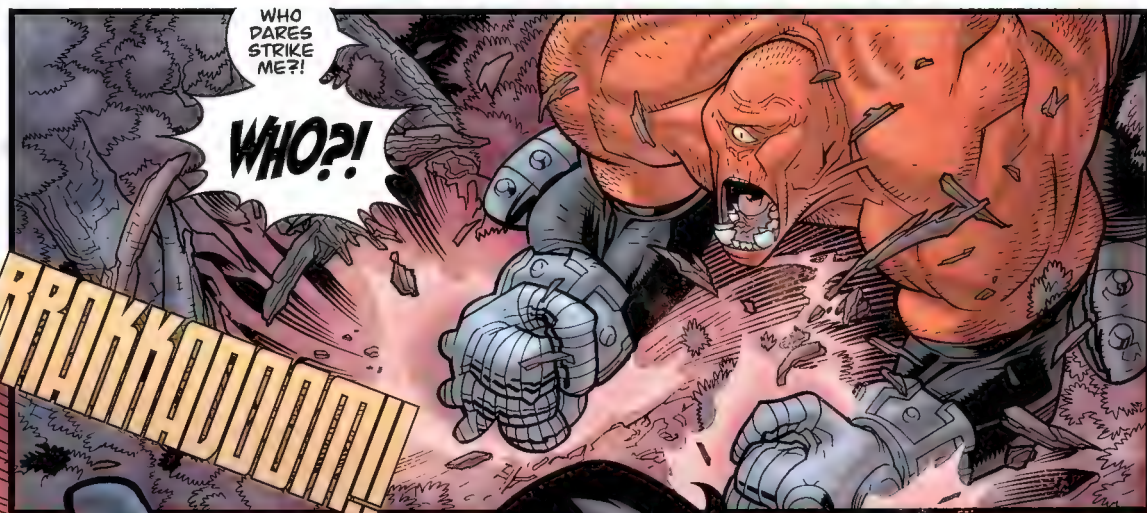
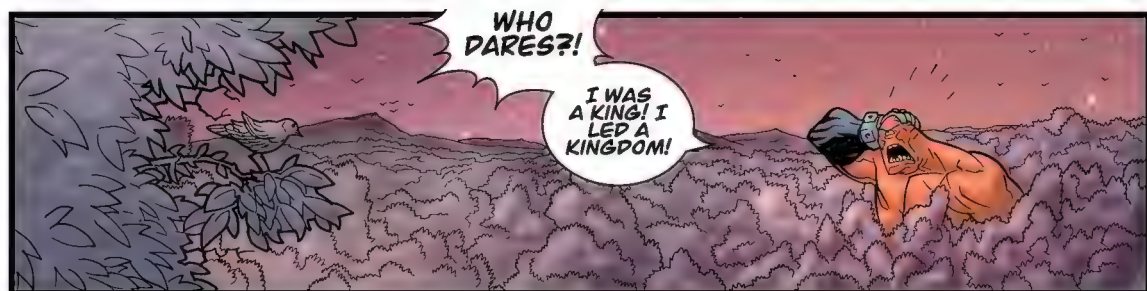
I'VE GOT YOU--  
WHAT'S THE  
SITUATION  
HERE?

SEEMS  
THIS GUY'S  
ON HIS WAY  
SOMEWHERE--  
HE DOESN'T  
MAKE A  
WHOLE LOT  
OF SENSE.

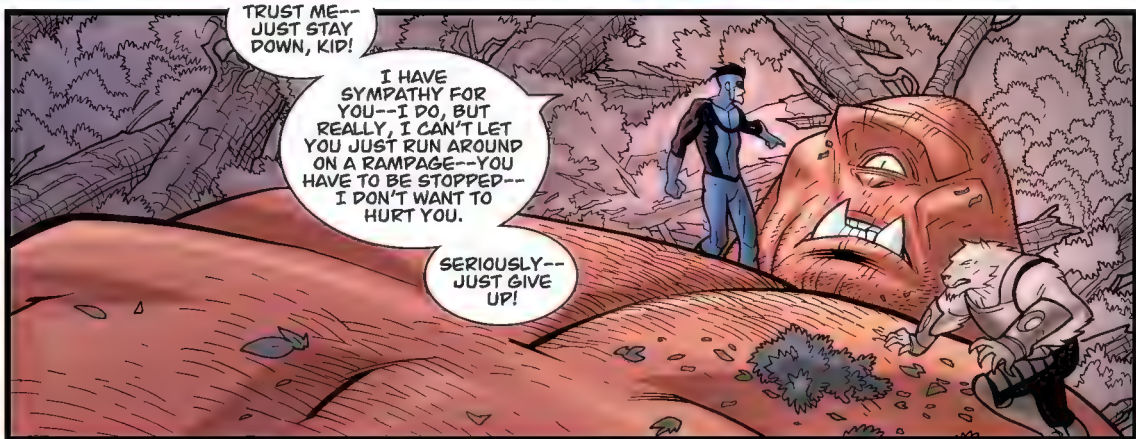
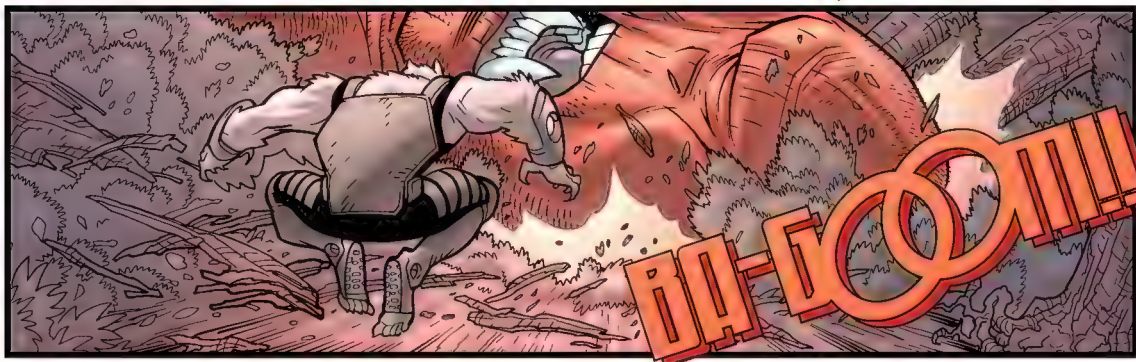
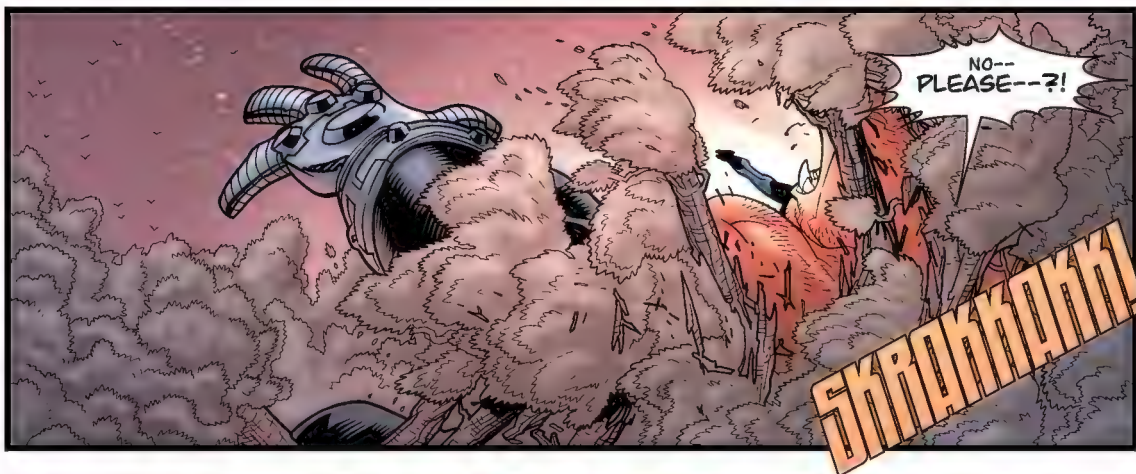
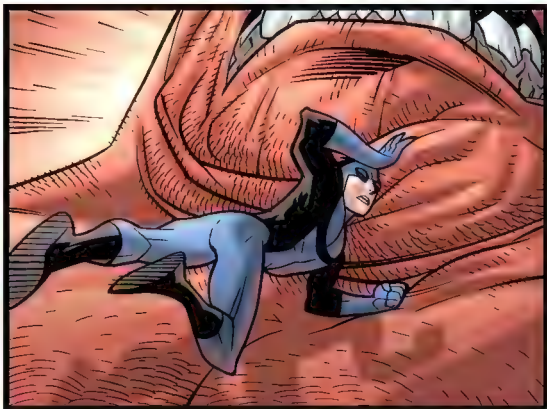
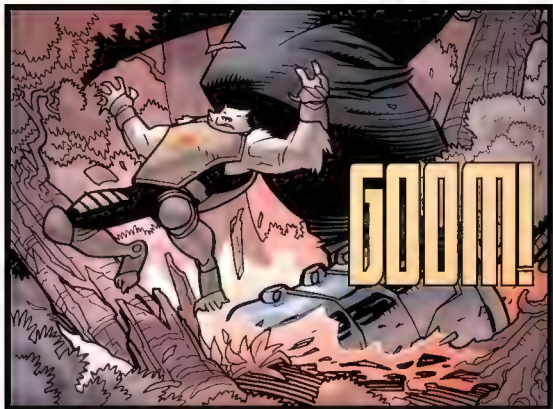
I DON'T  
KNOW IF HE'S  
KILLED ANYONE--  
HE TRAMPLED A  
FEW TRUCKS--  
HE'S BAD NEWS,  
I WAS TRYING  
TO STOP HIM.

I KNOW  
A LITTLE  
ABOUT HIM...  
NOT MUCH.

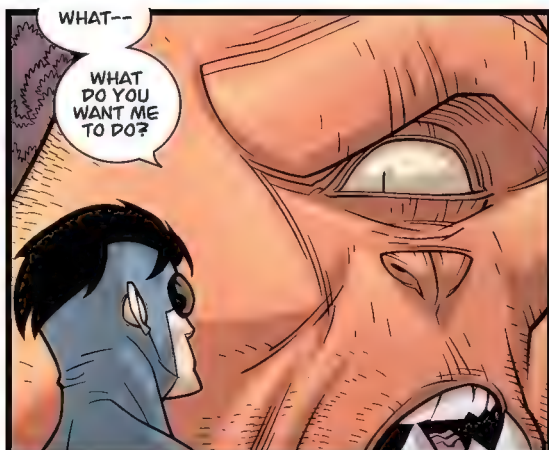




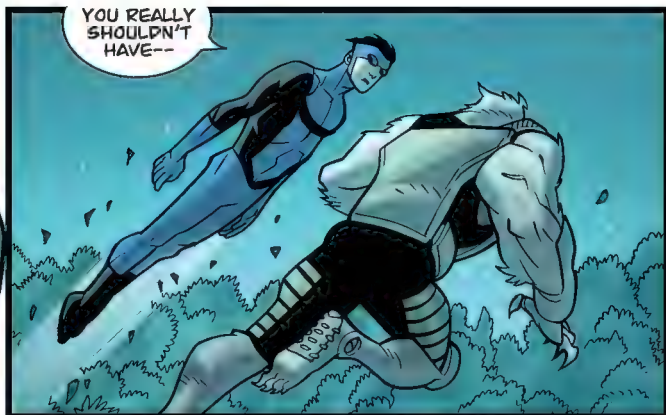








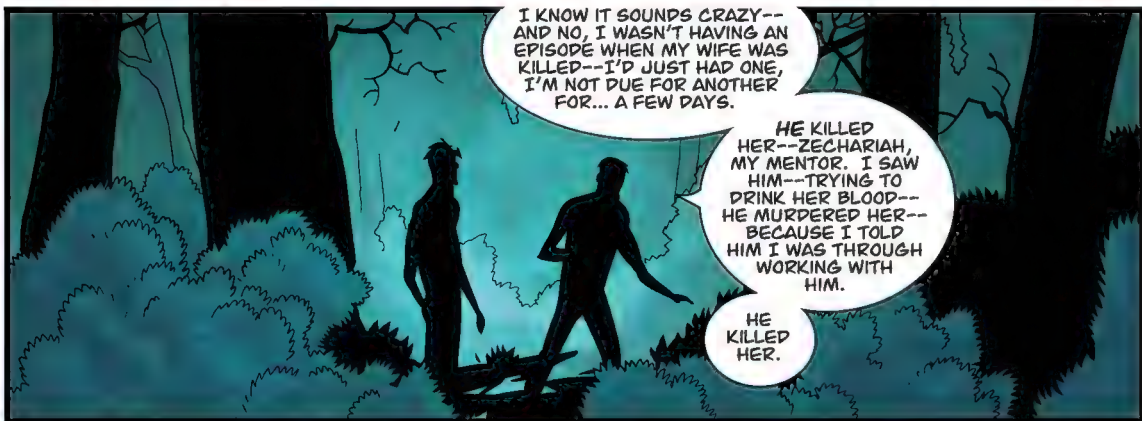
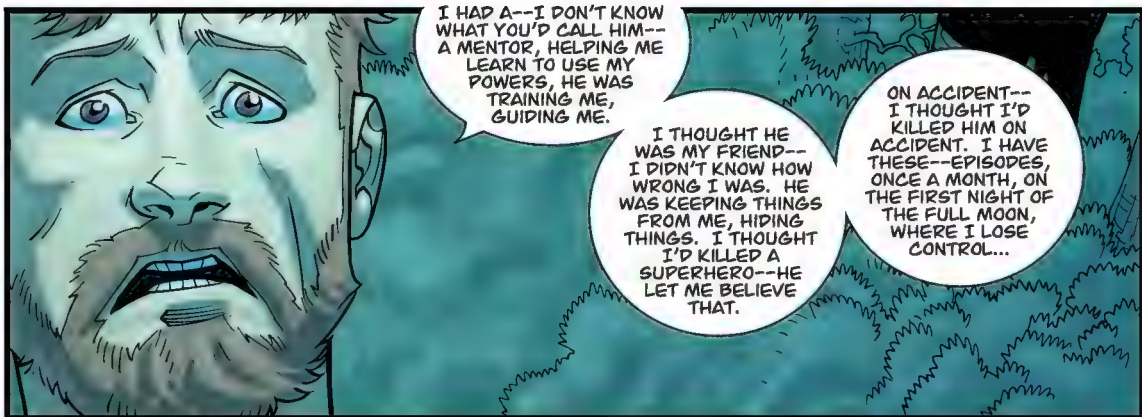








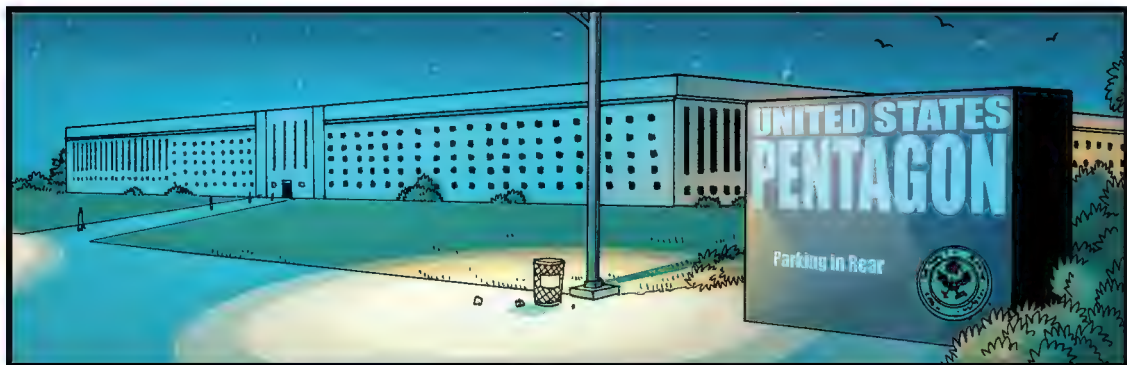










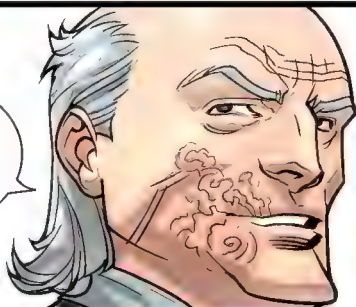


BRAVO, KID.  
I KNEW YOU  
COULD DO  
IT.

AND--  
DO MY EYES  
DECEIVE ME--  
YOU GOT HIM  
TO DO IT--  
VOLUNTARILY?

DIDN'T  
EXPECT  
THAT, KID'S  
GOOD.

IMPRESSIVE.



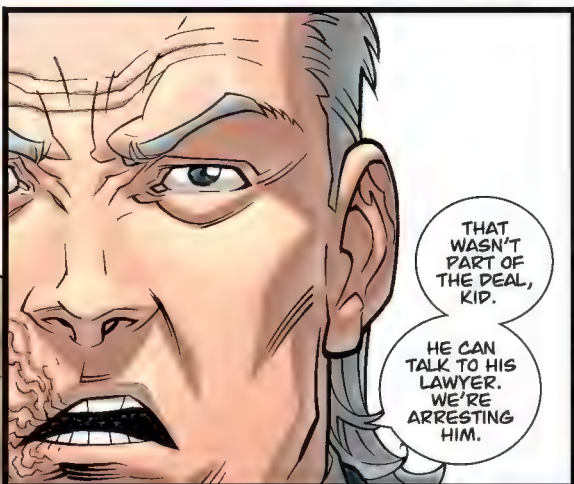
THANKS,  
BUT HE'S NOT  
HERE TO TURN  
HIMSELF IN.

HE'S  
HERE TO  
TALK.



THAT  
WASN'T  
PART OF  
THE DEAL,  
KID.

HE CAN  
TALK TO HIS  
LAWYER.  
WE'RE  
ARRESTING  
HIM.



THEN I'M  
CHANGING  
THE DEAL. YOU  
CAN LISTEN TO  
WHAT HE HAS  
TO SAY--THAT  
DOESN'T HURT  
ANYTHING.







AGENT HUNTER,  
CAN YOU PLEASE  
EXCUSE US?



GOOD LUCK,  
MURDERER.



IT'S OKAY--  
JUST LET  
ME TALK TO  
HIM.

ARE YOU TELLING  
ME THAT YOU CAN  
PARDON MURDERING  
PSYCHOPATHS LIKE  
**PARKWING**--BUT  
YOU CAN'T EVEN  
HEAR HIS  
STORY?

THAT'S  
INSANE.



NOTHING I CAN  
DO HERE, KID. HIS  
STORY'S TOO PUBLIC.  
THERE'S NO WAY I  
CAN HAVE HIM RUNNING  
AROUND IN THE CLEAR.  
EVERYONE KNOWS WHO  
GARY HAMPTON IS--  
THE WEREWOLF  
SUPERHERO WIFE-  
KILLER.

IT'S NOT  
LIKE HE COULD  
GO BY ANOTHER  
NAME OR ANYTHING  
EITHER... THE FUR  
TENDS TO GIVE  
HIM AWAY.

NO, SADLY--  
HE'S USELESS TO  
ME. I'VE GOT TO  
BE PRACTICAL HERE,  
INVINCIBLE. IF HE'S  
GOT A STORY TO  
TELL--HE CAN  
TELL IT TO A  
JURY.



THIS GUY  
ISN'T A KILLER--  
I ARRIVED TO  
SEE HIM RISKING  
HIS LIFE TRYING  
FROM THE GIANT--  
TRUST ME--HE'S  
ONE OF THE  
GOOD GUYS.

I'M NOT  
LETTING YOU  
ARREST HIM!



I KNOW  
YOU TOO  
WELL.

DIDN'T  
YOU WONDER  
WHY I HAD  
YOU MEET ME  
IN THE WHITE  
ROOM?





OH,  
GREAT.

THIS  
AGAIN.



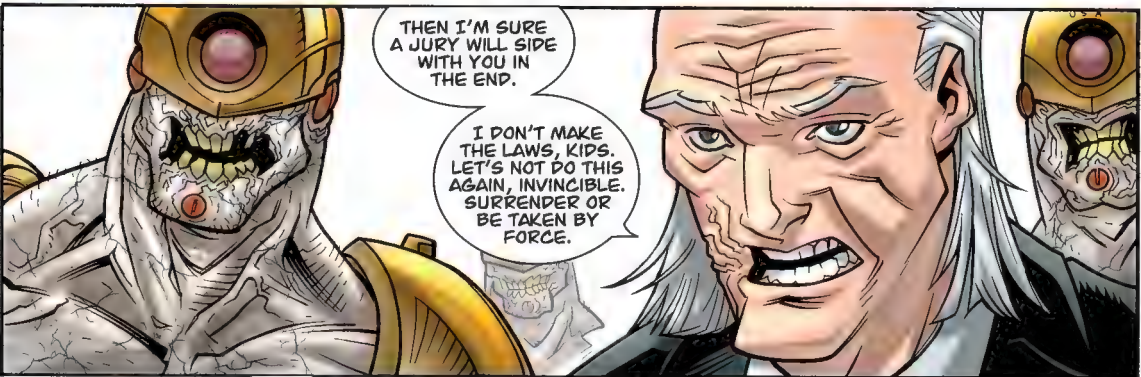
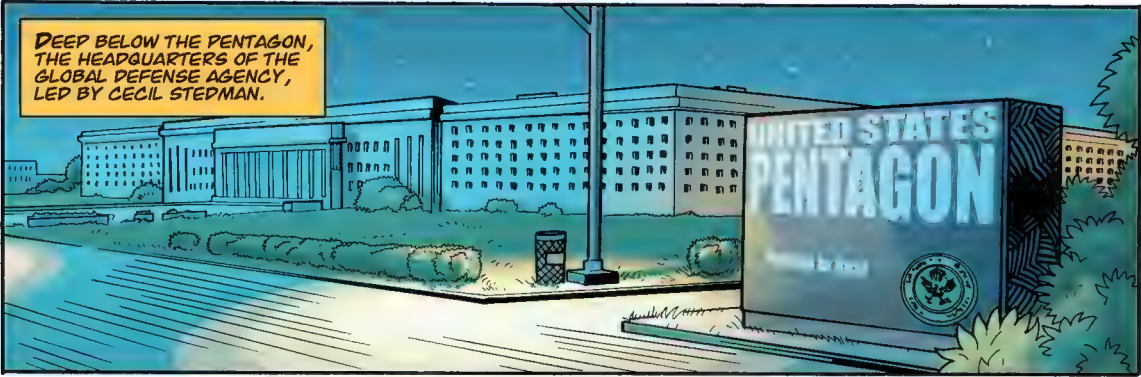




# CHAPTER FIVE











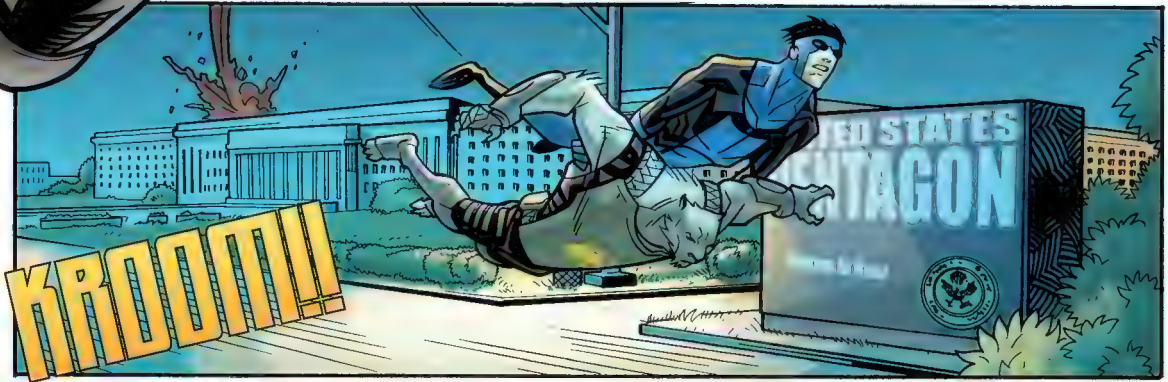








THE WAY--IS UP!



THIS IS UNCOMFORTABLE.

I GET THAT A LOT.





I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU GOING TO BAT FOR ME BACK THERE.

I HOPE IT DOESN'T GET YOU IN TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

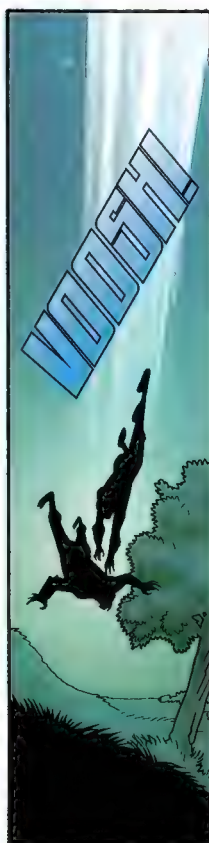


I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER. WE'RE---

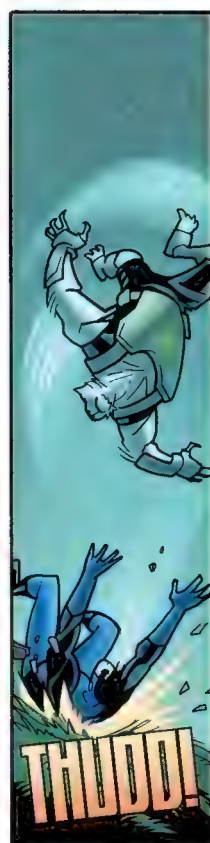
**KROOM!**



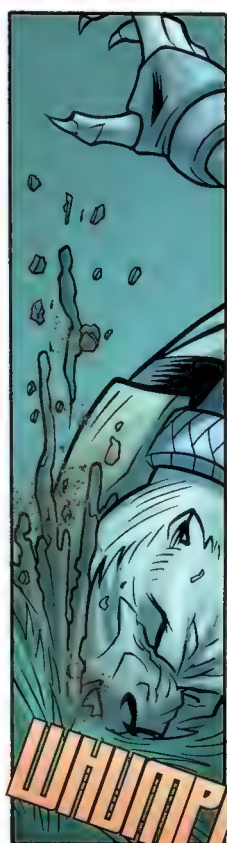
CRAP!



**VOOCH!**



**THUDD!**



**WHUMP!**





WHAT  
THE HELL  
WAS  
THAT?

UGH.



YOU DIDN'T  
REALLY THINK  
CECIL WOULD  
JUST LET YOU  
GO AGAIN,  
DID YOU?

YOU'RE  
IN DEEP.  
INVINCIBLE.  
PROTECTING A  
MURDERER IS  
SERIOUS  
BUSINESS.









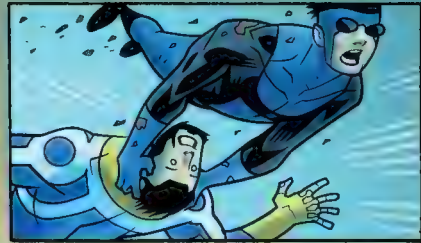




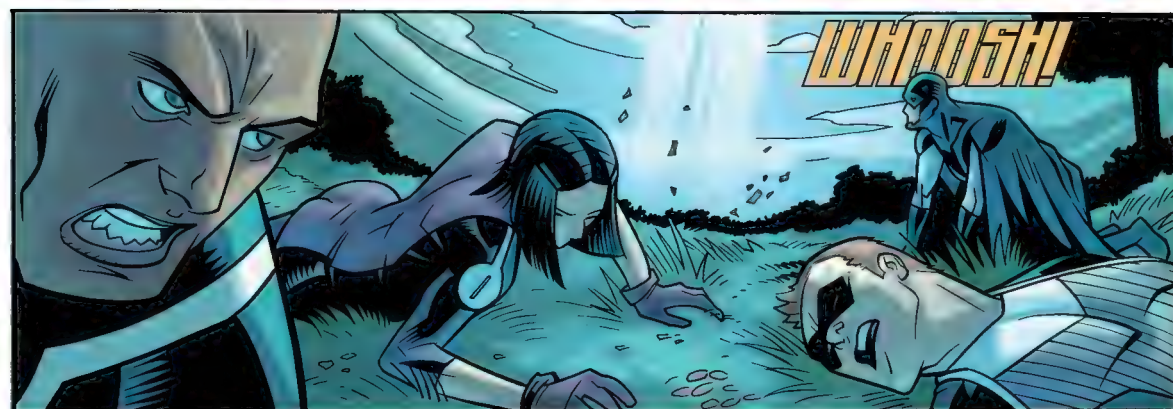
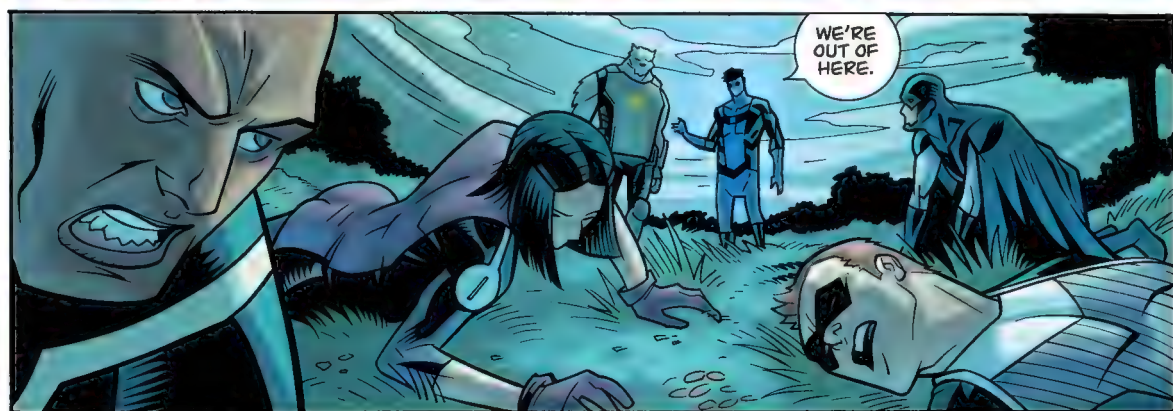
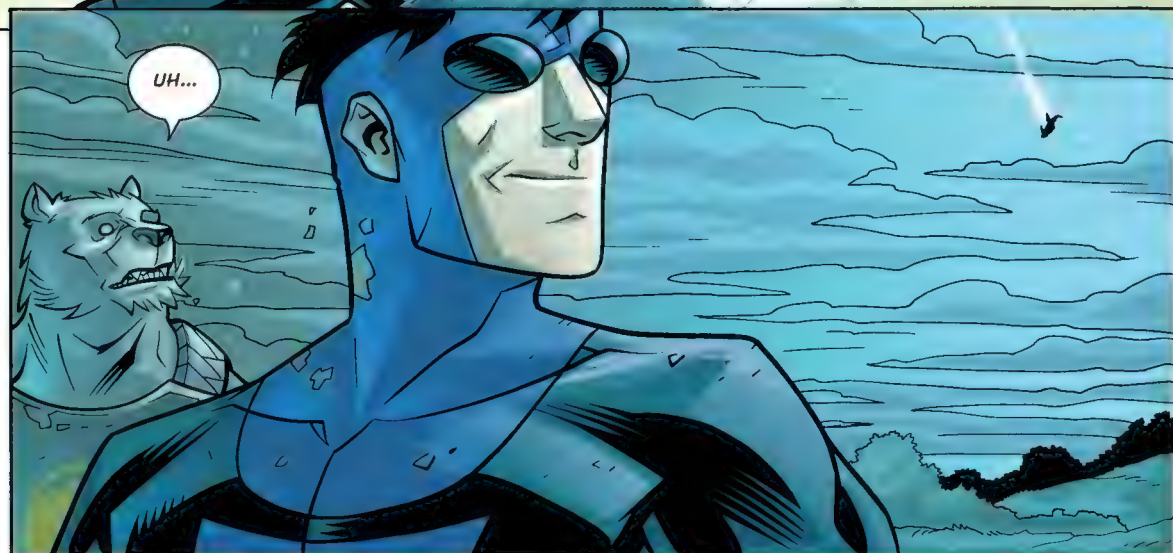
















COOL.  
I THINK  
WE LOST  
THEM.

GREAT.



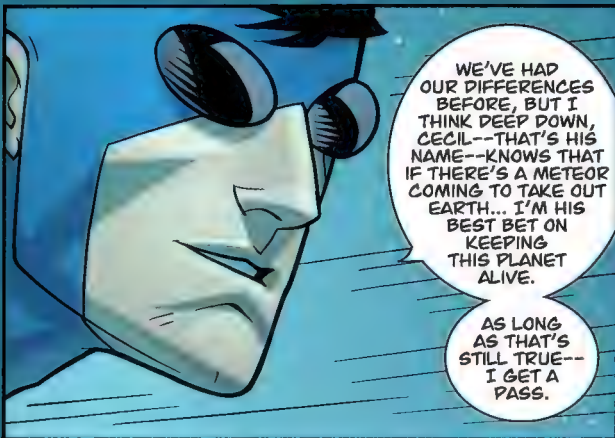
THAT TOTALLY  
DID **NOT** WORK  
OUT THE WAY I  
THOUGHT IT  
WOULD.

I'M  
REALLY  
SORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.



YOU  
COULDN'T  
HAVE PLANNED  
FOR THAT--DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT IT.  
I JUST HOPE I  
DIDN'T GET YOU IN  
TROUBLE WITH  
SCAR FACE  
BACK  
THERE.

I DON'T  
WANT THEM  
HUNTING  
YOU DOWN  
BECAUSE  
OF ME.



WE'VE HAD  
OUR DIFFERENCES  
BEFORE, BUT I  
THINK DEEP DOWN,  
CECIL--THAT'S HIS  
NAME--KNOWS THAT  
IF THERE'S A METEOR  
COMING TO TAKE OUT  
EARTH... I'M HIS  
BEST BET ON  
KEEPING  
THIS PLANET  
ALIVE.

AS LONG  
AS THAT'S  
STILL TRUE--  
I GET A  
PASS.



STILL,  
THANKS FOR  
STICKING YOUR  
NECK OUT FOR  
ME--MEANS  
A LOT.



DON'T  
MENTION  
IT.

...

SO...  
WHERE  
TO?



THE HAMPTON ESTATE.



WHEN SHE SAW ME HOLDING MY WIFE'S BODY... I KNEW--

I KNEW SHE THOUGHT I'D KILLED HER.



I DIED MYSELF, THAT VERY INSTANT... MY LIFE WAS OVER.

GETTING CAUGHT--WHAT THOSE PEOPLE WILL DO TO ME-- NONE OF THAT SCARES ME. THAT'S NOT WHY I RAN. I NEED TIME TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT...

...TO SHOW HER SHE STILL HAS A FATHER.



AND HE'S STILL OUT THERE--THE MAN WHO DID KILL YOUR WIFE?



SOMEWHERE, YEAH. I DON'T KNOW WHERE.

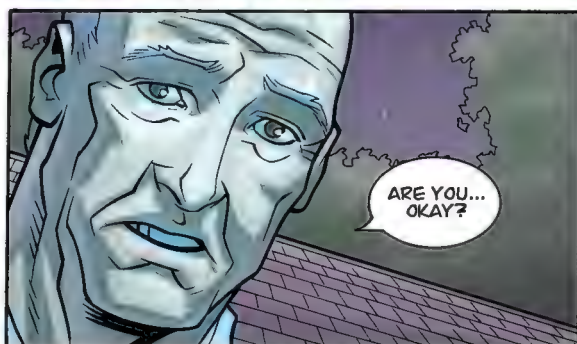
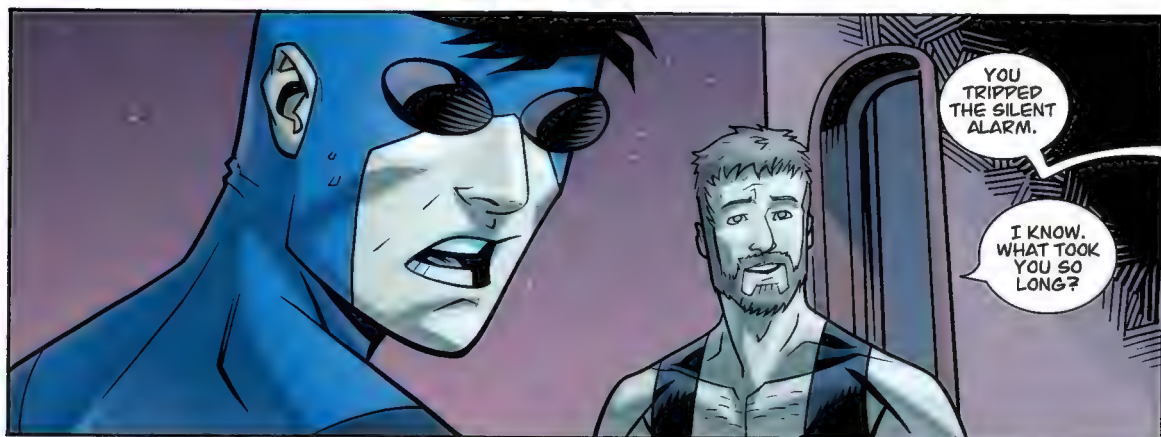
I NEVER KNEW WHERE HE WENT WHEN WE WEREN'T WORKING TOGETHER--HE ALWAYS FOUND ME.



HE'S STILL OUT THERE.

ZECHARIAH--













NOT WELL.  
SADLY.

NOT  
WELL AT  
ALL.



I'M TRYING TO BE  
SUPPORTIVE, I KNOW  
SHE'S GOING THROUGH  
A LOT--BUT I WAS  
NEVER CUT OUT TO BE  
A PARENT. I DON'T  
KNOW IF I'M DOING  
WHAT SHE  
NEEDS.

I'M GIVING  
HER SPACE. SHE  
DOESN'T SPEND A  
LOT OF TIME HERE.  
SHE'S STILL GOING  
TO SCHOOL, BUT  
HER GRADES ARE  
SUFFERING.

THE SCHOOL  
KNOWS THE  
SITUATION--THEY'RE  
BEING VERY  
UNDERSTANDING.

SHE'S JUST  
SO... ANGRY. SHE  
DOESN'T TALK TO ME...  
I'VE TRIED TO GET  
HER TO OPEN UP TO  
ME--BUT NOTHING  
SEEMS TO WORK. I  
DON'T KNOW WHAT  
TO DO.

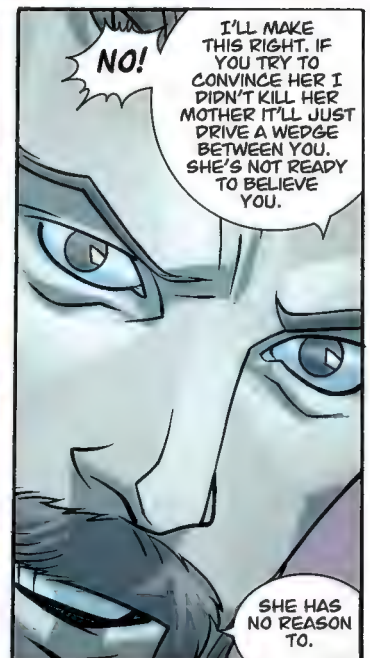


DOES  
SHE THINK  
I...?



SHE DOES.  
SHE THINKS YOU  
LOST CONTROL--  
WENT INTO A  
RAGE AND  
REBECCA...

I HAVEN'T  
TALKED TO  
HER ABOUT IT--  
MAYBE I  
SHOULD--



**NO!**

I'LL MAKE  
THIS RIGHT. IF  
YOU TRY TO  
CONVINCE HER I  
DIDN'T KILL HER  
MOTHER IT'LL JUST  
DRIVE A WEDGE  
BETWEEN YOU.  
SHE'S NOT READY  
TO BELIEVE  
YOU.

SHE HAS  
NO REASON  
TO.





I'LL GIVE HER THE REASON TO BELIEVE ME. I'LL SHOW HER THE KIND OF MAN THAT I AM--THE KIND OF MAN I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.

I JUST NEED TIME. DUNFORD, JUST GIVE ME THE TIME TO PROVE TO HER.

I'LL BRING DOWN ZECHARIAH-- EXPOSE HIM FOR WHAT HE IS--AND SHE'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.

I'LL GET MY LITTLE GIRL BACK.



I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH TIME AS YOU NEED.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, GARY.



WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL HELP OUT IN ANY WAY I CAN.

I REALLY WISH I COULD HELP MORE. I'M VERY SORRY.



DON'T BE. YOU'VE HELPED ENOUGH. BRINGING ME HERE--TRYING TO CLEAR THINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

I ALMOST HATE TO ASK, BUT I DO NEED ONE MORE THING FROM YOU.



NAME IT.

I NEED YOU TO GET ME OUT OF HERE.





YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT ME TO BRING YOU BACK HERE?

THEY KNOW YOU WERE HERE-- WON'T THEY COME HERE AGAIN TO ARREST YOU?

MAYBE THEY WILL... I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.



IT'S IMPORTANT I STAY HERE-- I'M LEARNING THINGS.



I REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING BACK--MY GIRLFRIEND'S PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I HAVEN'T CALLED HER TONIGHT.

GOOD LUCK.



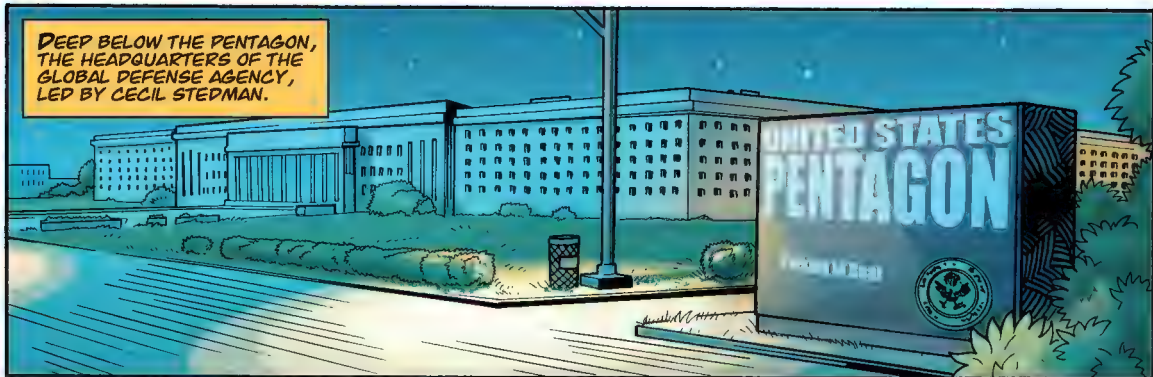
WHO WAS THAT?



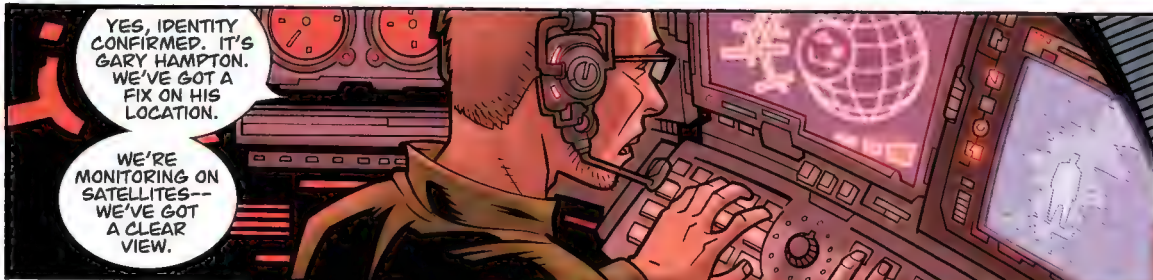
SOMETHING I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEVER HAVE AGAIN...

...A FRIEND.





DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,  
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE  
GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY,  
LED BY CECIL STEPMAN.



YES, IDENTITY  
CONFIRMED. IT'S  
GARY HAMPTON.  
WE'VE GOT A  
FIX ON HIS  
LOCATION.

WE'RE  
MONITORING ON  
SATELLITES--  
WE'VE GOT  
A CLEAR  
VIEW.



STAND BY FOR  
INSTRUCTIONS.

NO.

WE KNOW  
WHERE HE IS--  
WE'LL KEEP  
HIM UNDER  
SURVEILLANCE.

I'M STILL  
DECIDING WHAT  
TO DO WITH HIM.  
HE MAY STILL  
PROVE USEFUL  
TO ME...

YOU  
WANT ME  
TO GO  
IN?



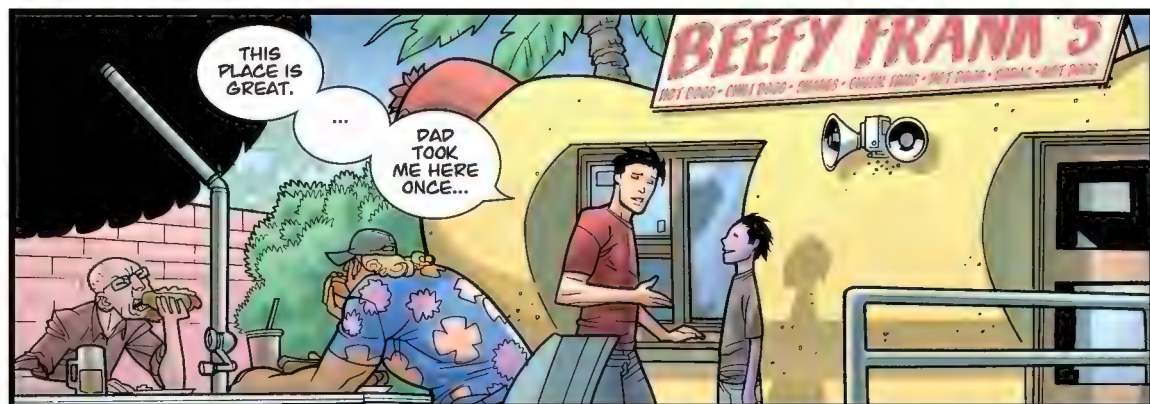
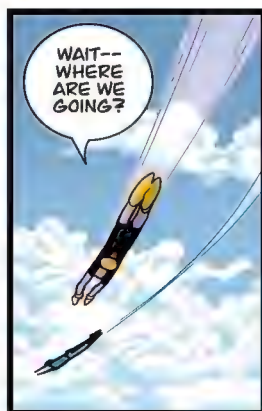




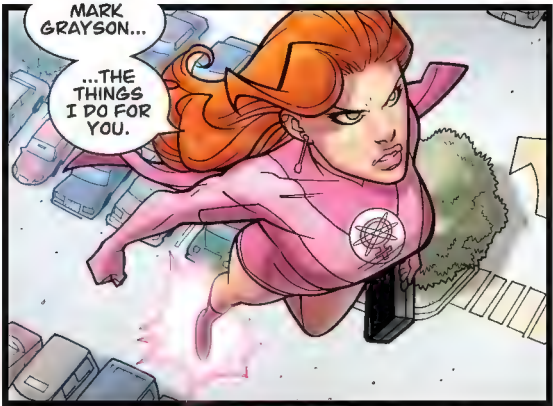
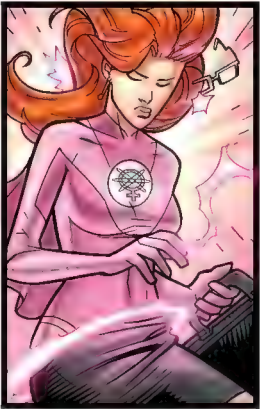
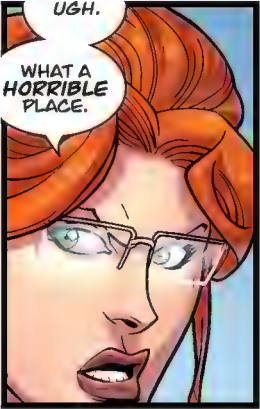
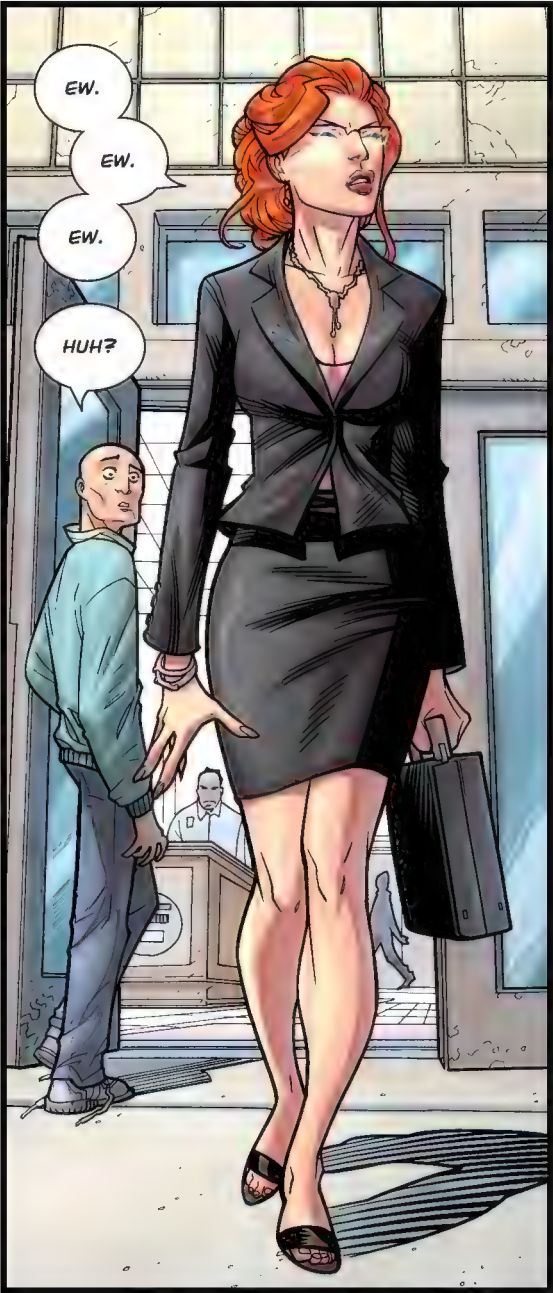
# CHAPTER SIX















THE BASE OF THE GROUP FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE TEEN TEAM.

GLOBAL GUARDIANS! THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD CALL OURSELVES.



IF WE GET BETTER PUBLICITY-- WE'LL BE MORE POPULAR THAN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE IN NO TIME!



THAT MAY BRING US LEGAL ENTANGLEMENTS. BESIDES, WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY--OUR RANGE ISN'T EXACTLY GLOBAL.

OH, PLEASE. HOW MANY TIMES DID WE DO SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY WHEN WE WERE WITH THE GUARDIANS? TWICE? THREE TIMES?



NOT COUNTING THE SPACE STUFF.

I DON'T LIKE THE NAME, EITHER. IT SOUNDS SILLY. I THINK WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER.



THEN WHY DON'T YOU SUGGEST SOMETHING. STOP CRAPPING ALL OVER MY IDEAS AND SUBMIT SOME OF YOUR OWN!



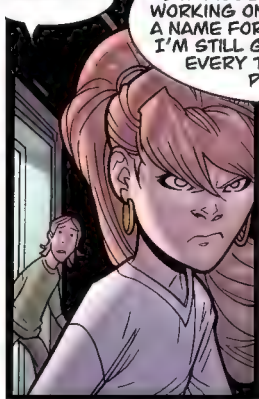
JEEZ!

IS THE NAME OF OUR STUPID TEAM REALLY THIS IMPORTANT?!



WHO CARES?!

AMANDA?



I'M PISSED, OKAY?! WE'RE WORKING ON COMING UP WITH A NAME FOR OUR TEAM WHILE I'M STILL GETTING YOUNGER EVERY TIME I USE MY POWERS!

YOU SAID YOU'D FIX ME, RUDY! YOU WERE CONFIDENT! DAMN IT, I BELIEVED IN YOU!

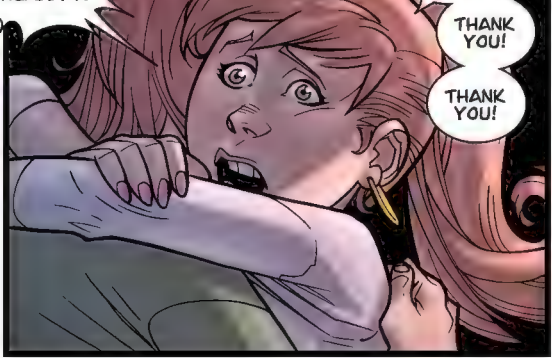


I'M SORRY, I REALLY AM... I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON YOU--I RECENTLY MADE A BREAKTHROUGH... I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU--



I THINK I'VE FOUND THE SOLUTION.

OH MY GOD-- REALLY?!

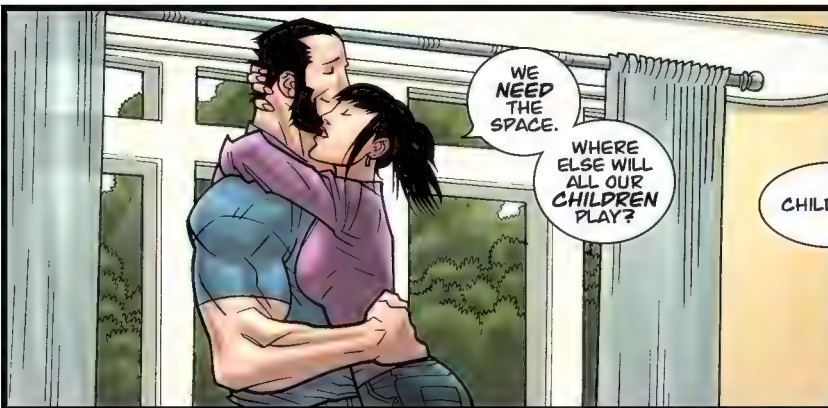
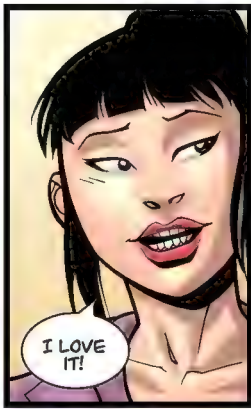


THANK YOU!

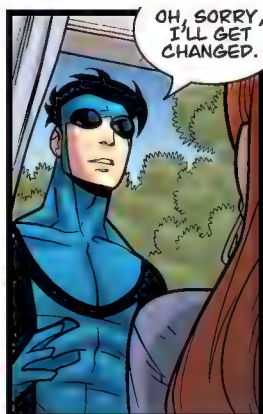
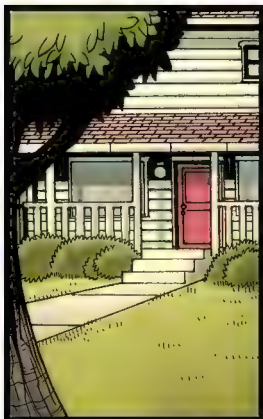
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

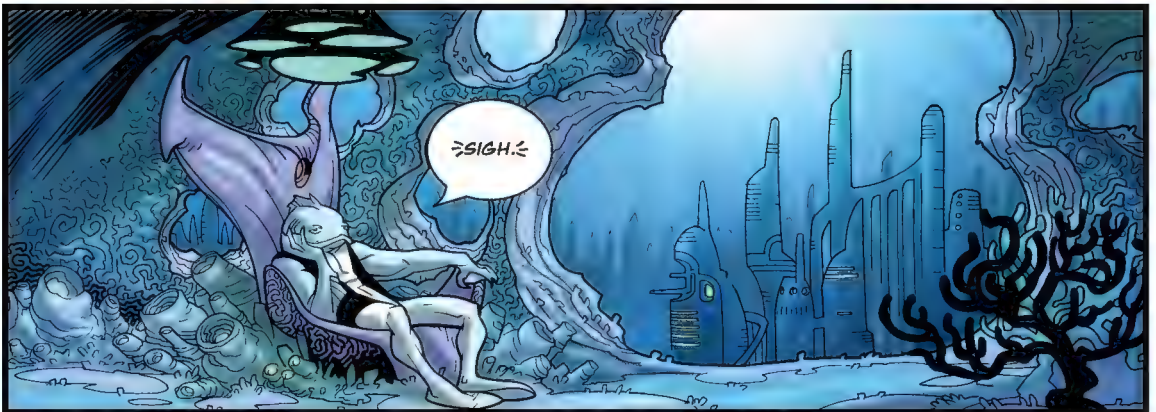
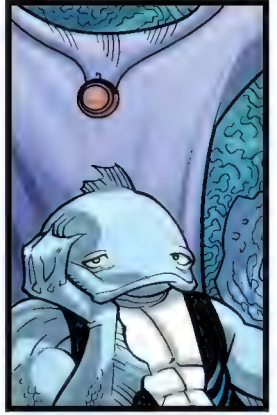
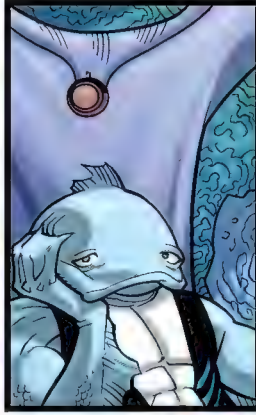
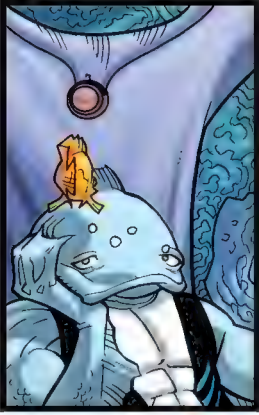
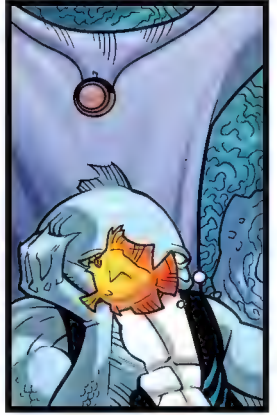
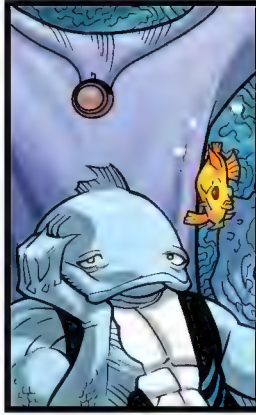
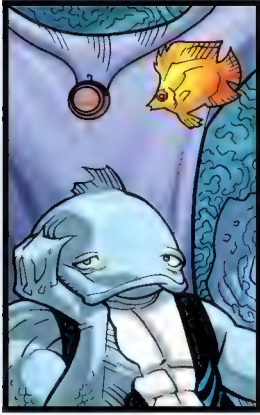
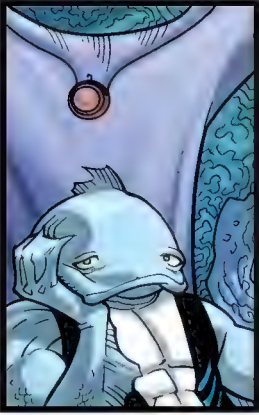
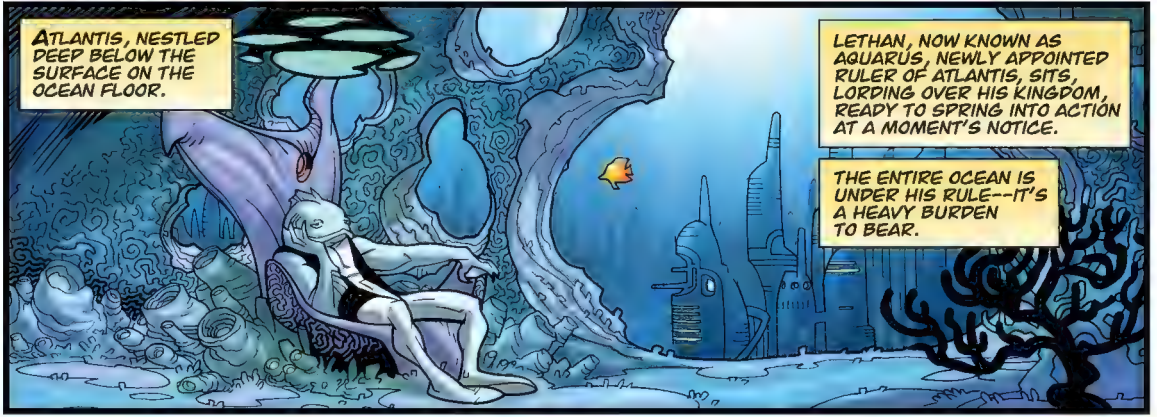
















SO...  
WHAT ARE  
WE GOING  
TO DO?

MOVIE?  
DINNER? THERE'S  
THIS COOL PLACE  
THAT'LL LET YOU  
PAINT YOUR OWN  
POTTERY.

NO, THAT'S  
NOT WHAT I--AND  
DEFINITELY NO TO THE  
POTTERY THING. I  
MEAN, WHAT ARE WE  
GOING TO DO ABOUT  
BEING TOGETHER?



I MEAN  
WITH YOU LIVING  
WITH YOUR  
PARENTS--ME  
LIVING WITH  
MY MOM.



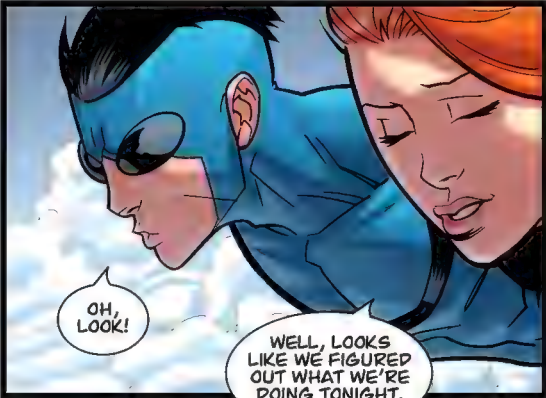
I'M  
TAKING  
CARE  
OF IT.



OH, YOU  
ARE, ARE  
YOU?



MAYBE  
I AM.  
SURPRISED?

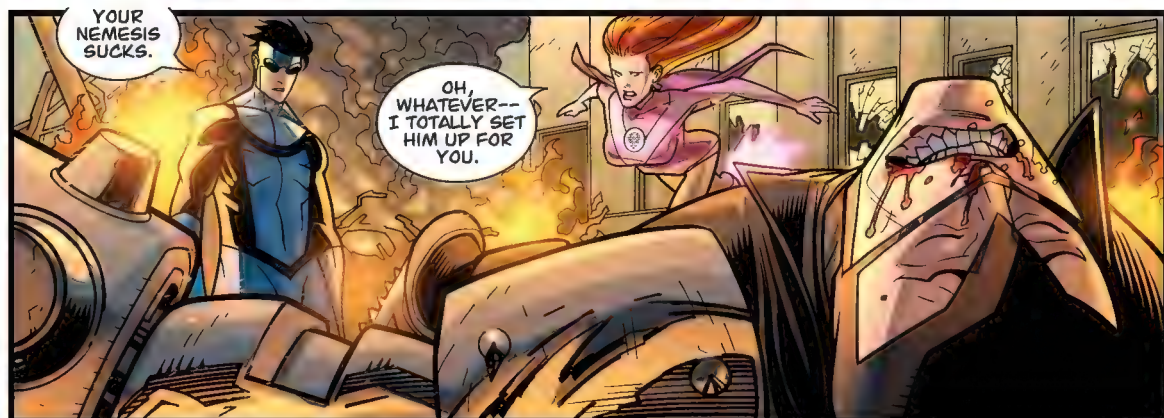
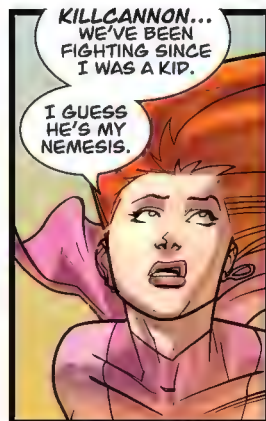


OH,  
LOOK!

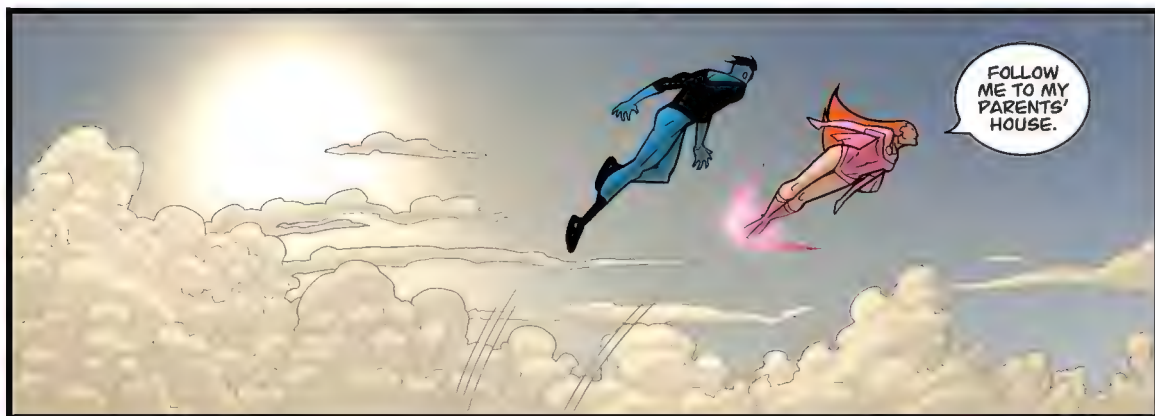
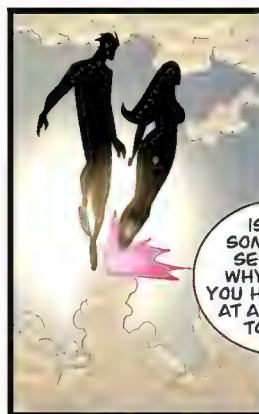
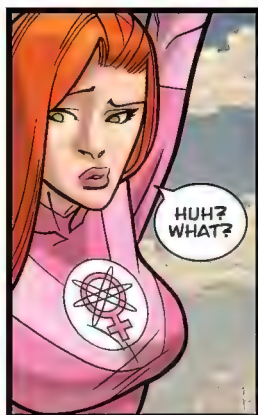
WELL, LOOKS  
LIKE WE FIGURED  
OUT WHAT WE'RE  
DOING TONIGHT.











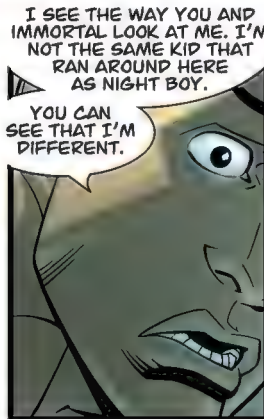
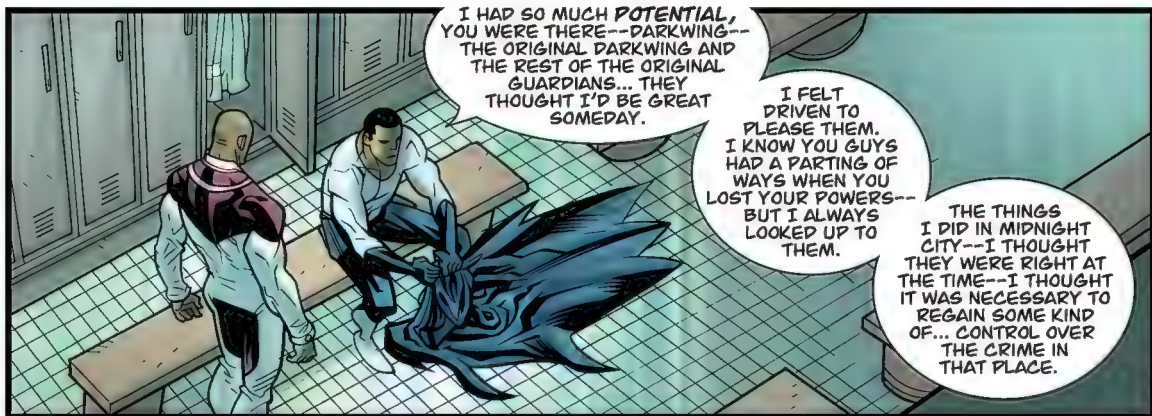




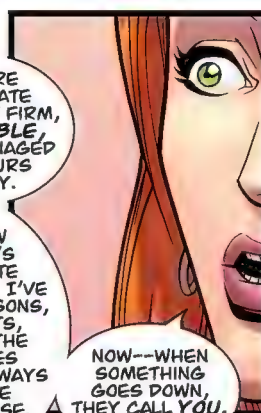
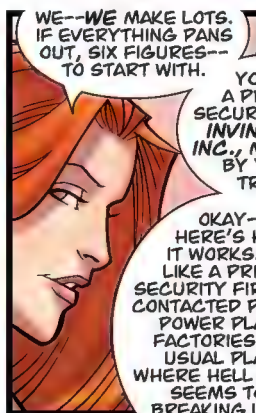
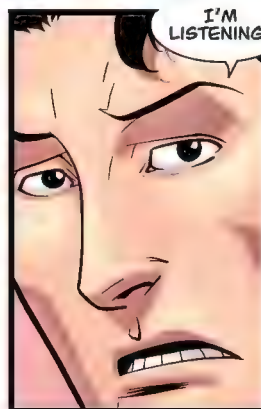
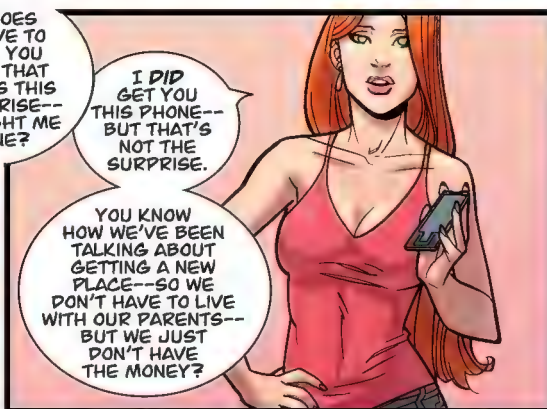
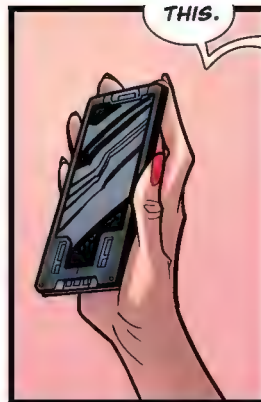
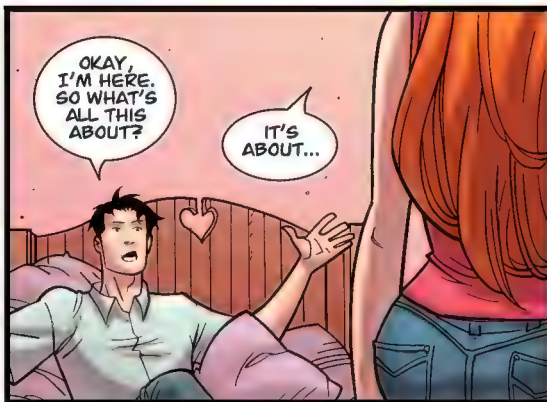
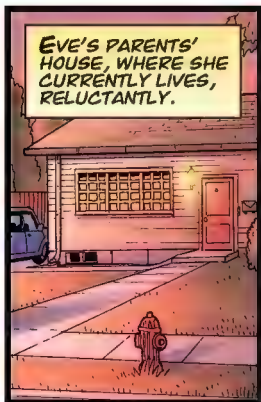
YOU UNDERSTAND?

THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

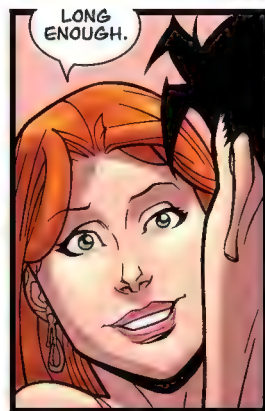
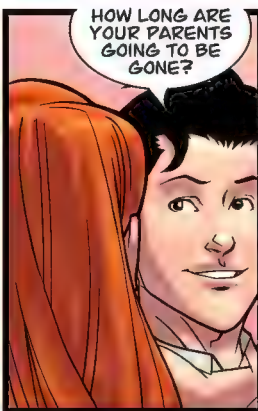
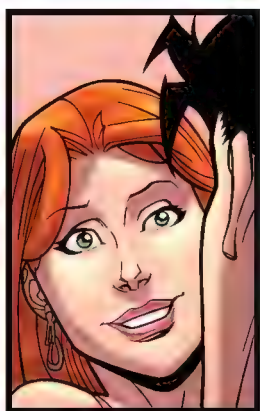
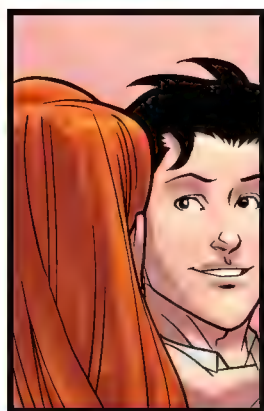
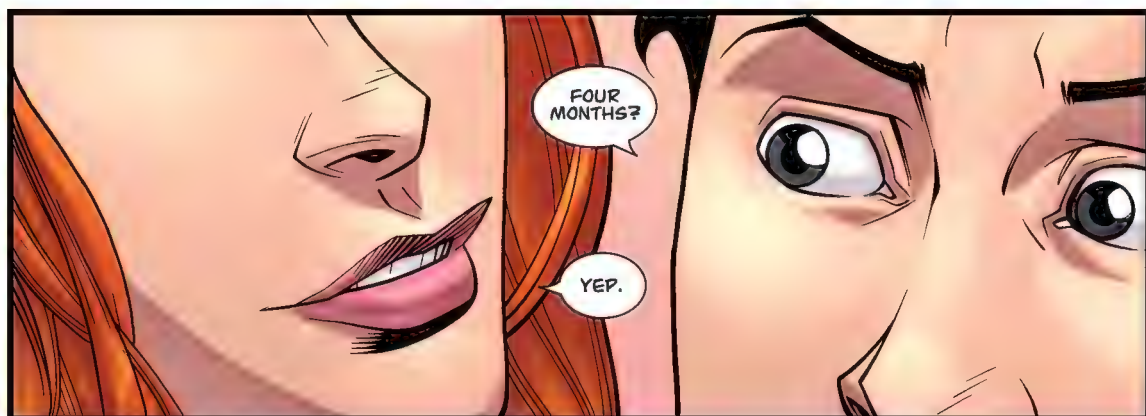
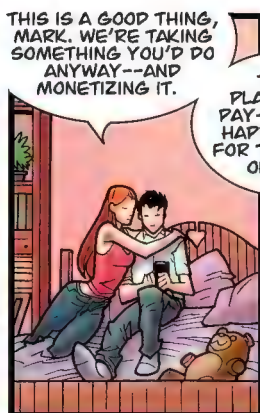








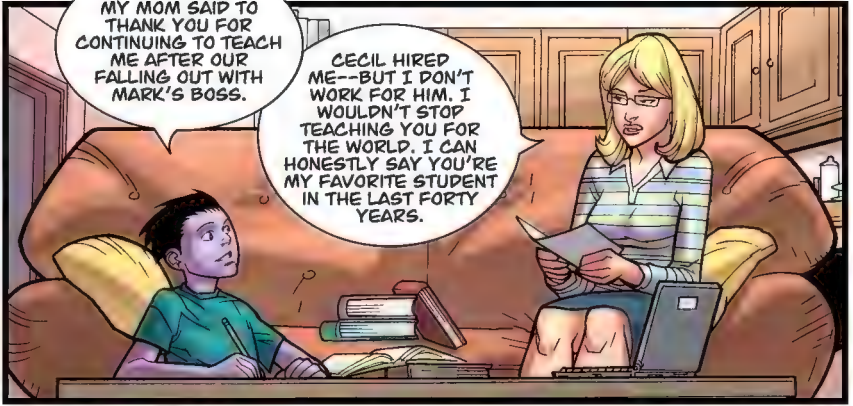








THE GRAYSON HOUSEHOLD.



MY MOM SAID TO THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO TEACH ME AFTER OUR FALLING OUT WITH MARK'S BOSS.

CECIL HIRED ME--BUT I DON'T WORK FOR HIM. I WOULDN'T STOP TEACHING YOU FOR THE WORLD. I CAN HONESTLY SAY YOU'RE MY FAVORITE STUDENT IN THE LAST FORTY YEARS.



YOU'RE SUCH A FAST LEARNER. I FEEL LIKE IF THINGS KEEP GOING THE WAY THEY ARE--I WON'T BE TEACHING YOU--I'LL BE LEARNING THINGS ALONG WITH YOU.

COOL.

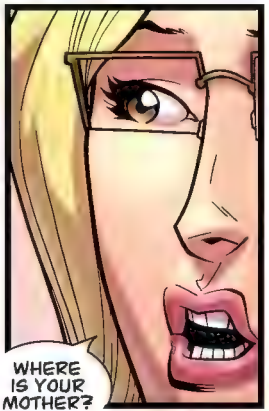


I'M IN AWE OF YOU, OLIVER.



THANKS.

I LIKE YOU, TOO.



WHERE IS YOUR MOTHER?



STAYING OVER WITH HER BOYFRIEND. MARK SAID SHE CAN'T STAY HERE. TOO DANGEROUS.



REALLY?

WHAT'S GOING ON?



WE FOUND SOME ORB THAT WAS WATCHING US. MARK THINKS IT'S A SUPER-VILLAIN--HE THOUGHT IT WAS CECIL--BUT HE DENIED IT AND MARK BELIEVES HIM.



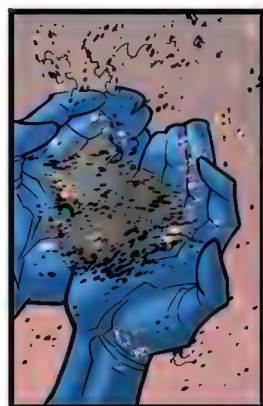
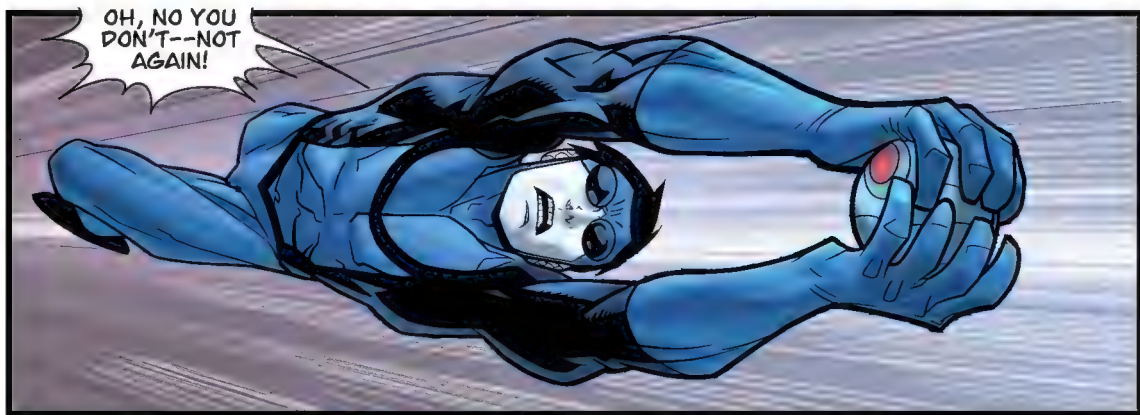
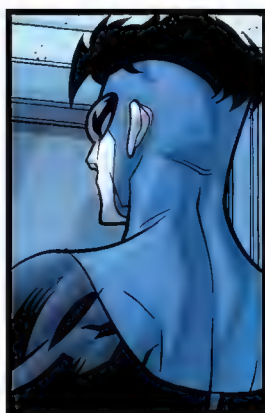
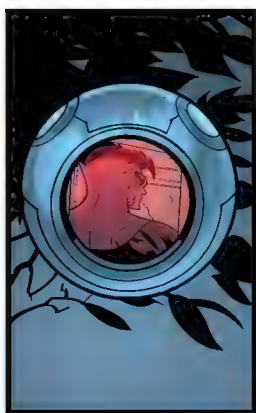
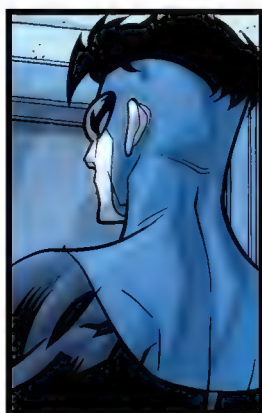
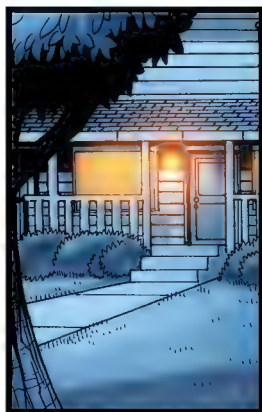
SHOULD I BE WORRIED?



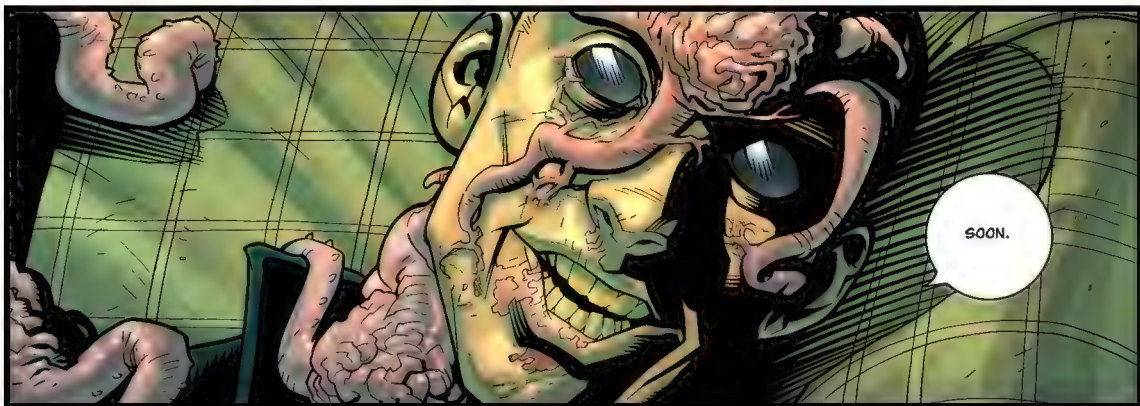
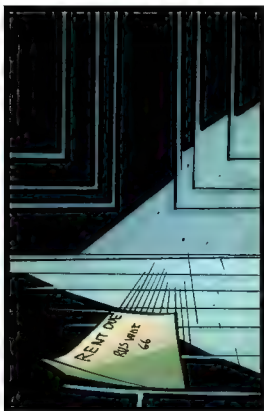
NAH. I THINK THIS IS JUST ABOUT MY BROTHER. YOU'RE PROBABLY SAFE.

OH, OKAY.

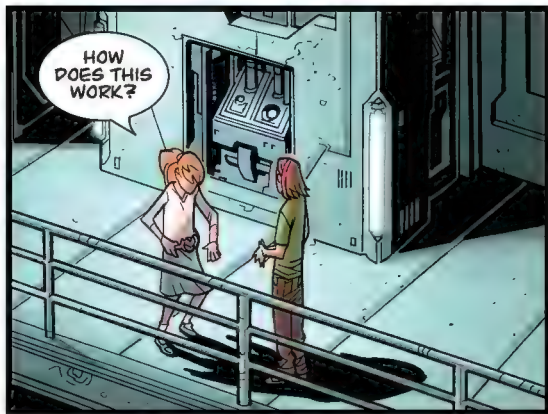
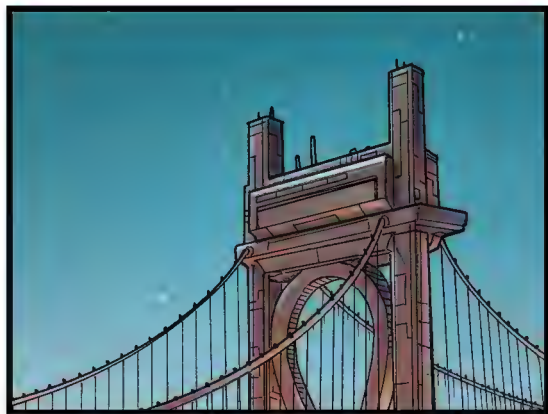












I'VE BEEN STUDYING YOUR CELLS FOR MANY MONTHS--SAMPLES TAKEN BEFORE YOUR TRANSFORMATION-- AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE SOURCE OF YOUR "CURSE."

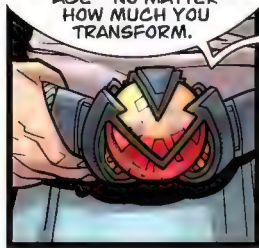
YOUR MONSTER FORM ROBS FROM YOUR CELLS-- ESSENTIALLY DESTROYING THEM IN THE TRANSFORMATION. WHEN YOU REVERT TO YOUR HUMAN FORM-- ITS ESSENTIALLY REBUILDING YOU-- CELL BY CELL.

AND IT'S DOING IT WRONG.

THAT'S WHY I'M GETTING YOUNGER? BECAUSE I'M BEING REBUILT INCORRECTLY?

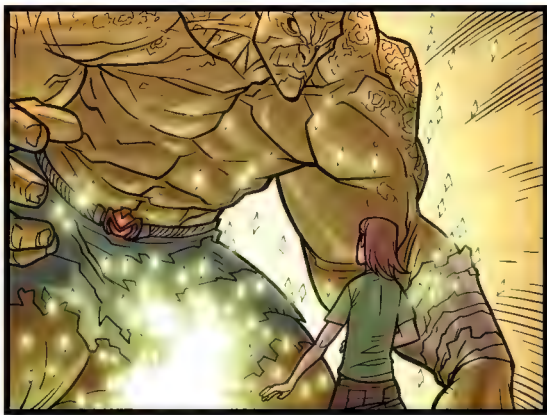
EXACTLY. IT PUTS YOU BACK TOGETHER BUT NOT ALL OF YOUR CELLS SURVIVE THE TRANSFORMATION-- IT REVERSES GROWTH.

THAT BELT WILL TAKE AN EXACT COPY OF YOUR CELL STRUCTURE A FRACTION OF A SECOND BEFORE YOUR TRANSFORMATION--IT WILL STORE IT, AND IT WILL ASSIST IN YOUR RESTRUCTURING-- MAINTAINING YOUR AGE--NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRANSFORM.



TRY IT OUT.

HERE GOES....



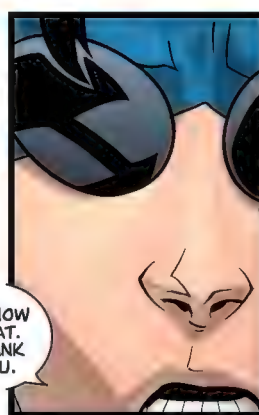
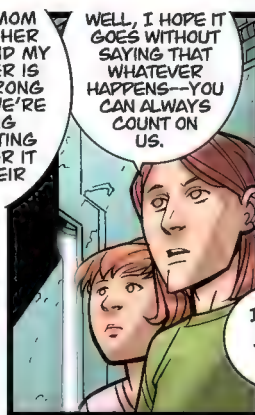
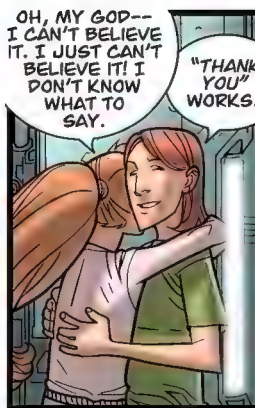
IT'S DESIGNED TO RESIST YOUR TRANSFORMATION-- IT WON'T CHANGE WITH YOUR CLOTHING.

NOW, REVERT BACK.

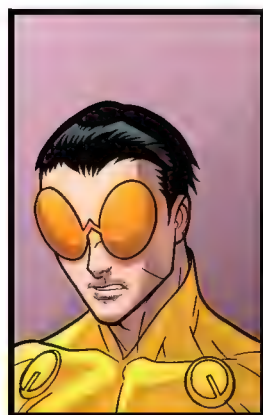
UNGH... FEELS WEIRD.















IT'S A  
START.







# CHAPTER SEVEN







**INVINCIBLE!!**

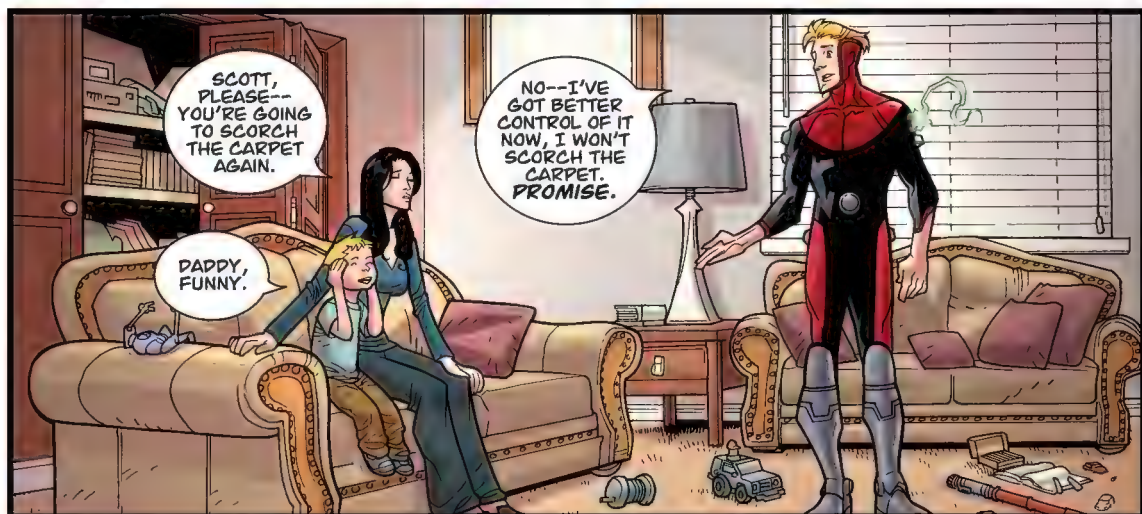
YOU THINK  
YOU ARE ABOVE  
THE LAW--YOU  
THINK YOUR  
ACTIONS HOLD NO  
CONSEQUENCE!

**YOU ARE  
WRONG!**

YOU  
WILL PAY  
FOR YOUR  
CRIMES  
AGAINST  
HUMANITY!

**POWERPLEX  
WILL MAKE  
YOU PAY!!**





SCOTT,  
PLEASE--  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO SCORCH  
THE CARPET  
AGAIN.

NO--I'VE  
GOT BETTER  
CONTROL OF IT  
NOW, I WON'T  
SCORCH THE  
CARPET.  
**PROMISE.**

DADDY,  
FUNNY.

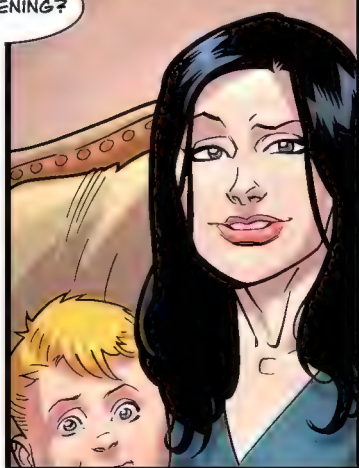


BUT HOW WAS  
IT? DID IT  
SOUND GOOD?  
POWERFUL?

YES, ALL OF  
THAT. IT WAS  
**GREAT,**  
HONEY.

REALLY.

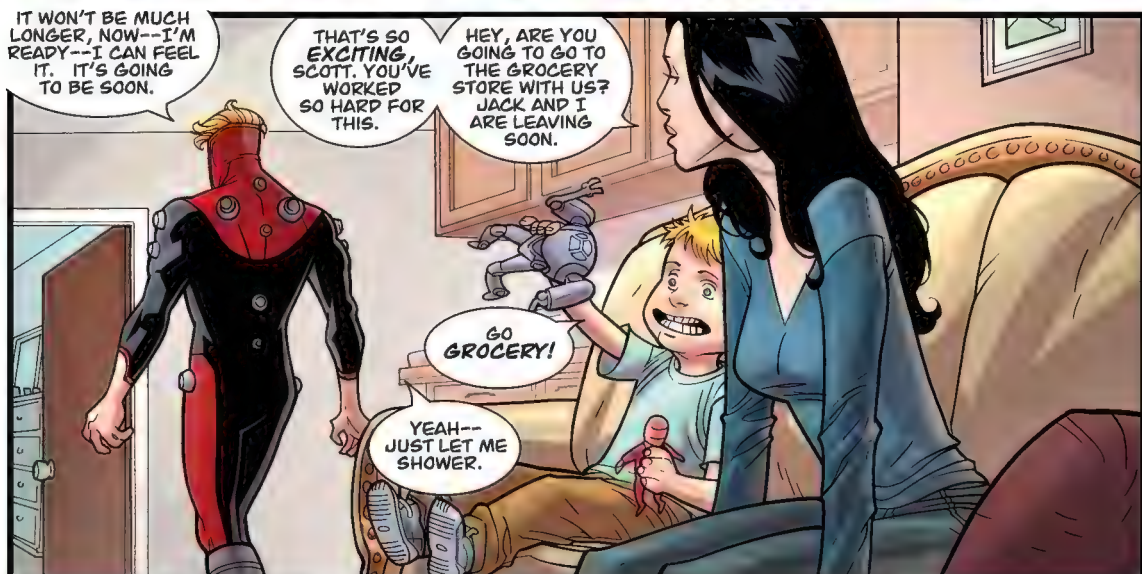
THREATENING?



THANKS, BECKY.  
THAT'S FOR  
LETTING ME DO  
THIS. I KNOW  
YOU'RE PUTTING  
UP WITH A  
LOT.

NOT SO  
MUCH, THIS IS  
IMPORTANT TO  
ME, TOO. I  
LOVED JESSICA.

IT WON'T BE MUCH  
LONGER, NOW--I'M  
READY--I CAN FEEL  
IT. IT'S GOING  
TO BE SOON.



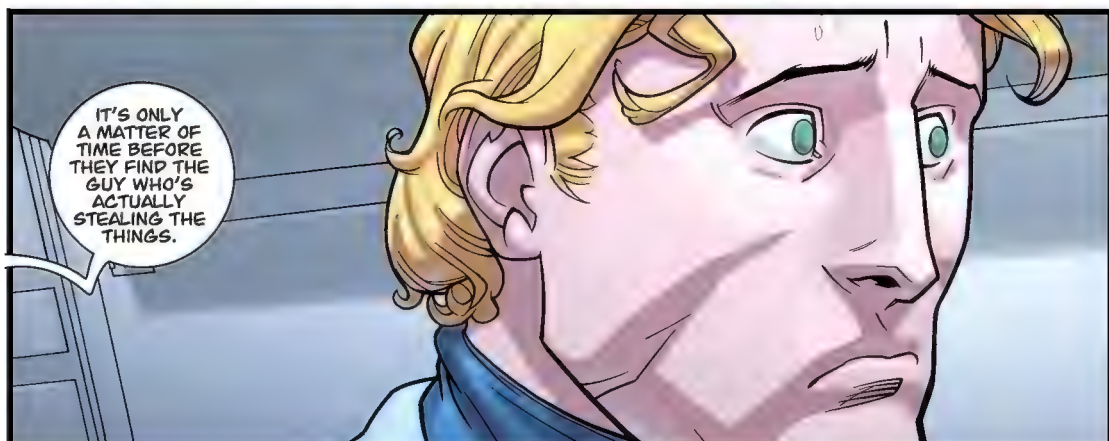
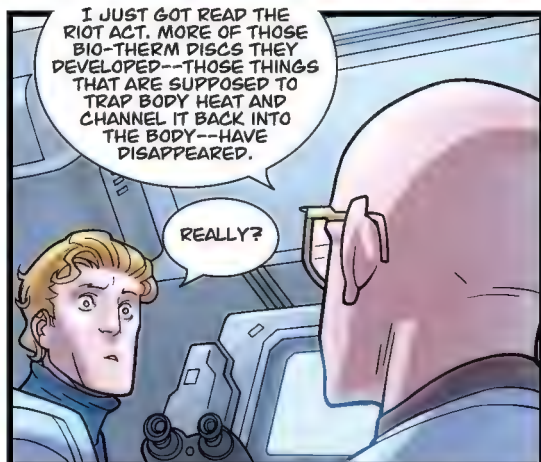
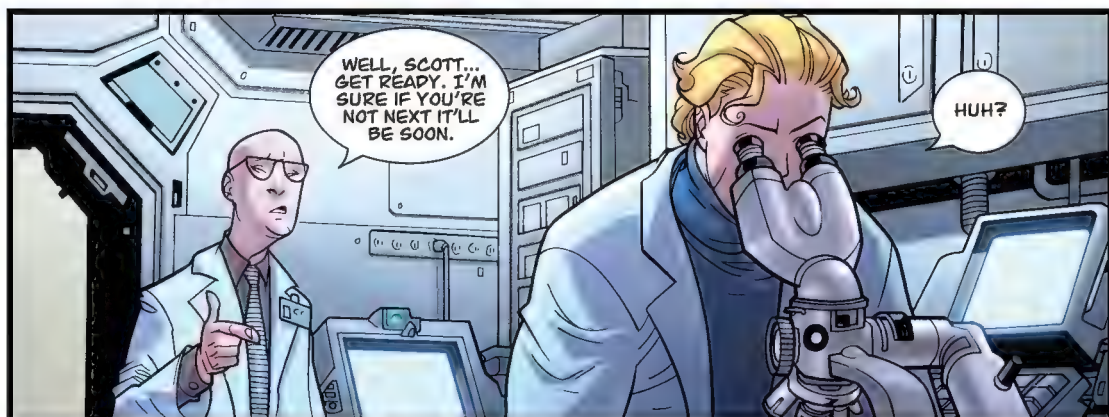
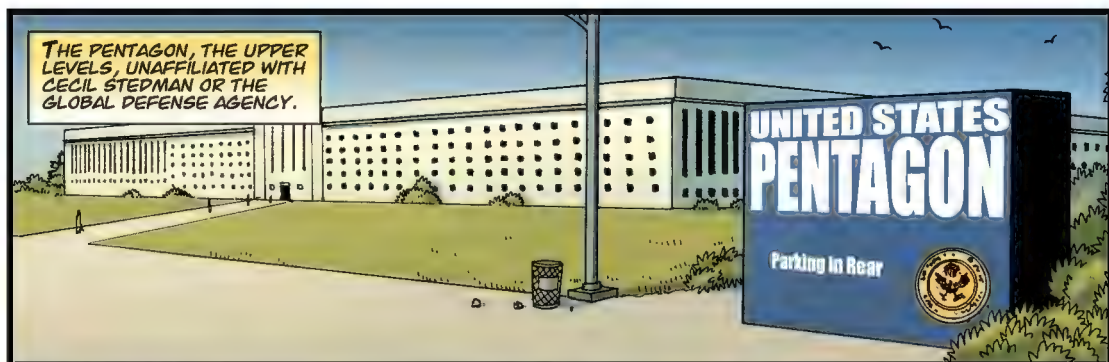
THAT'S SO  
**EXCITING,**  
SCOTT. YOU'VE  
WORKED  
SO HARD FOR  
THIS.

HEY, ARE YOU  
GOING TO GO TO  
THE GROCERY  
STORE WITH US?  
JACK AND I  
ARE LEAVING  
SOON.

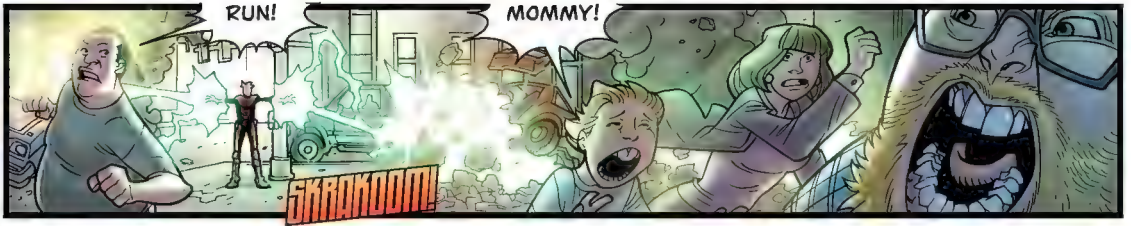
GO  
**GROCERY!**

YEAH--  
JUST LET ME  
SHOWER.





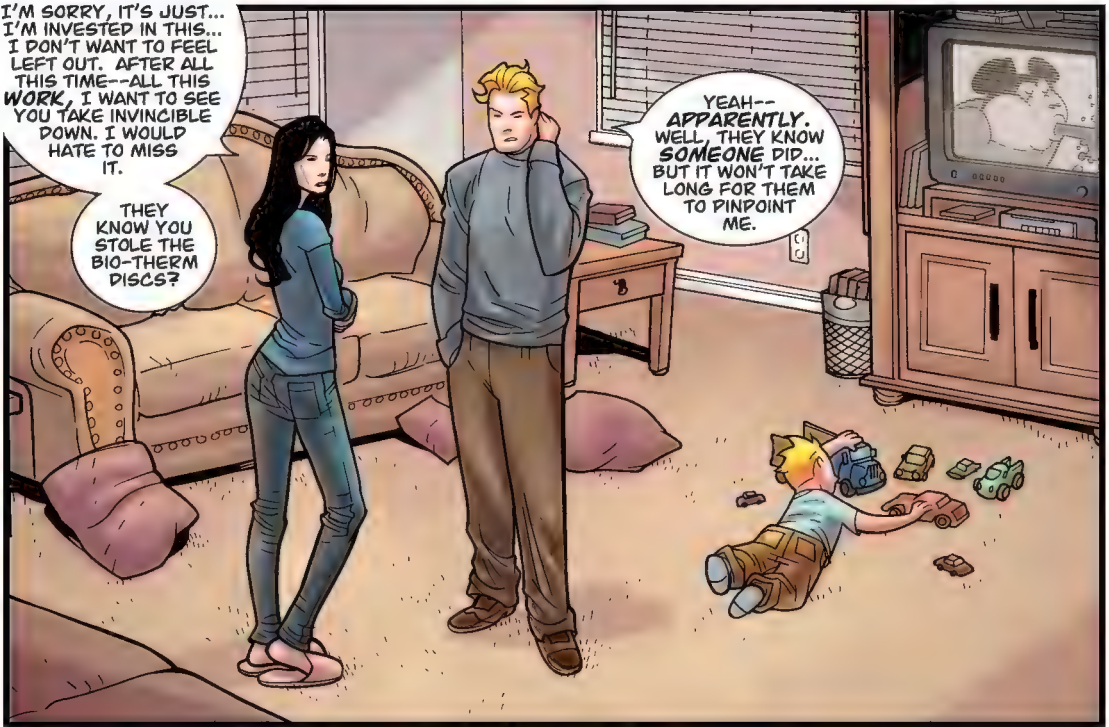
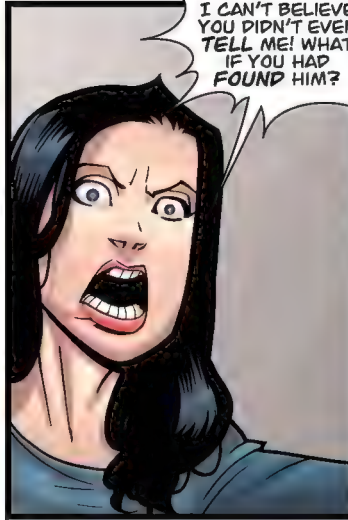




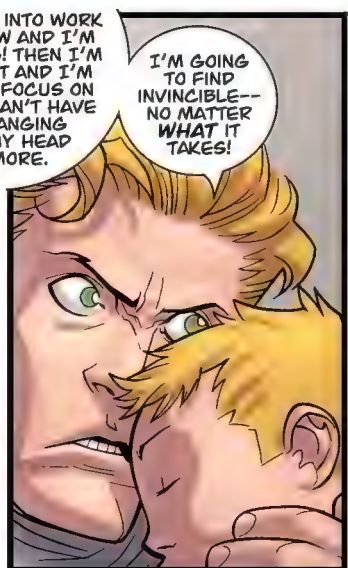
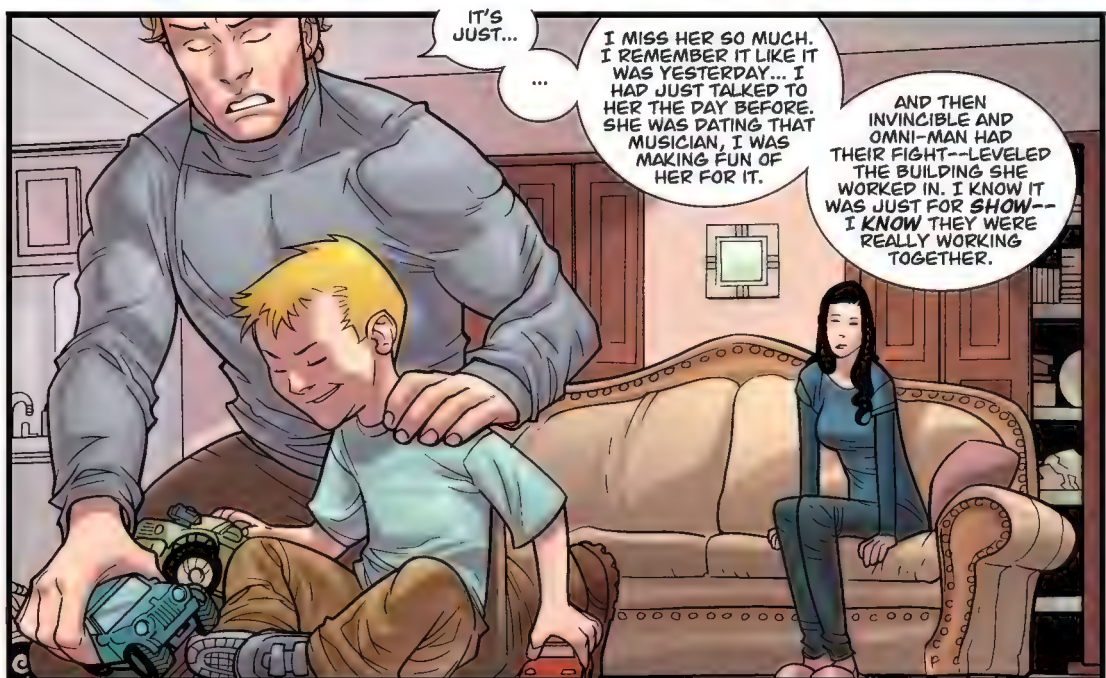
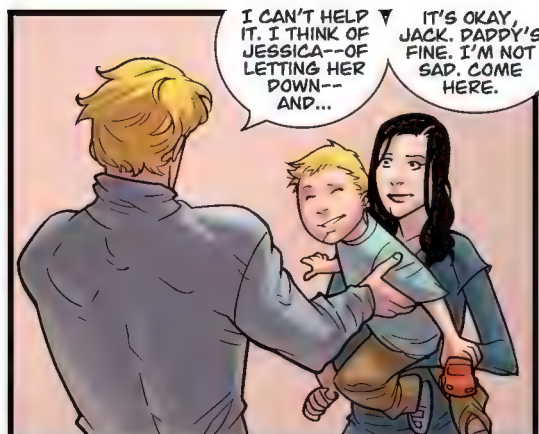








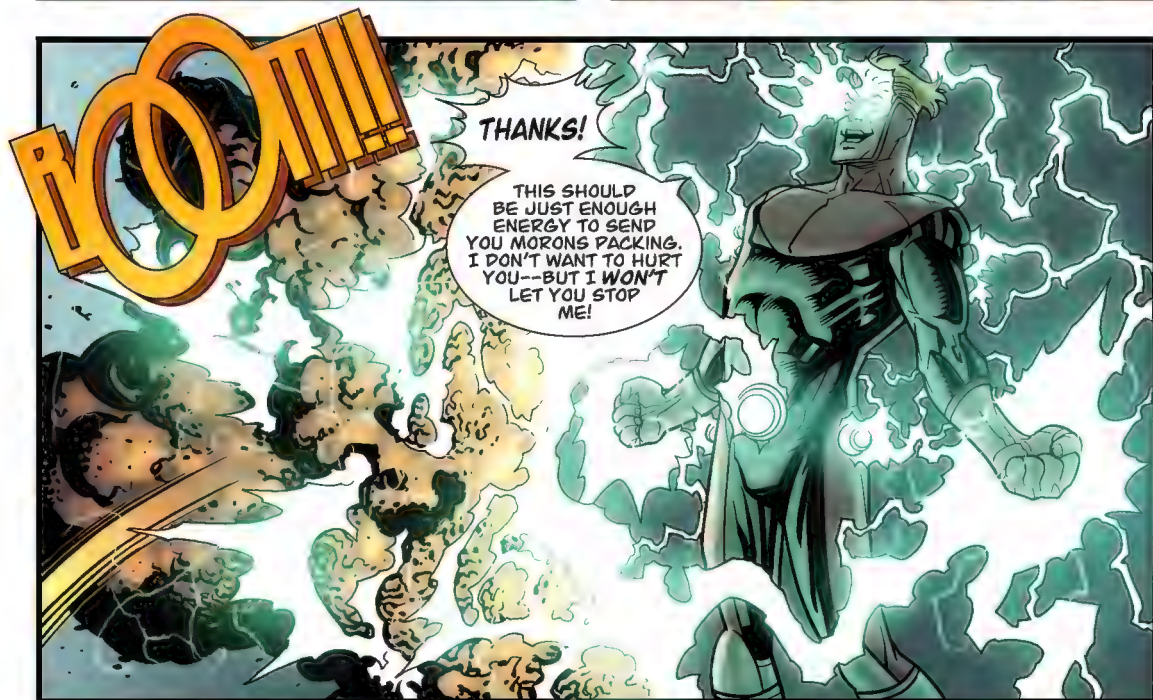
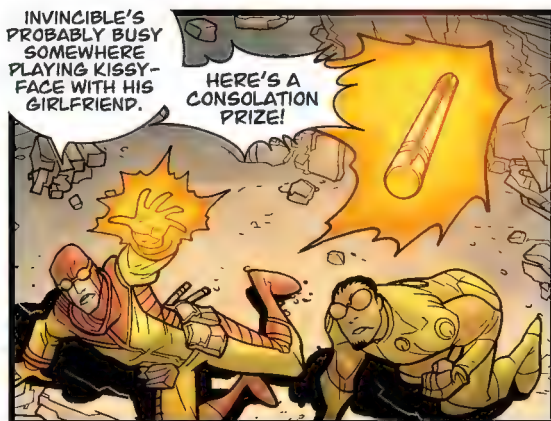




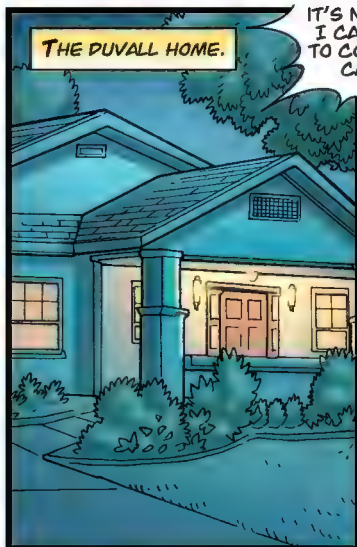








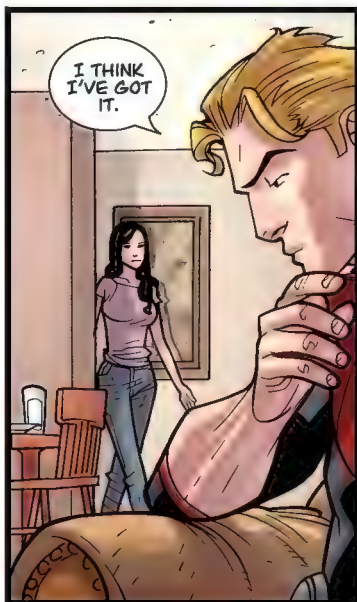
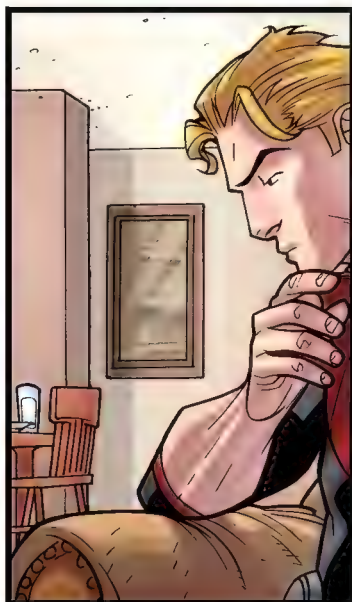
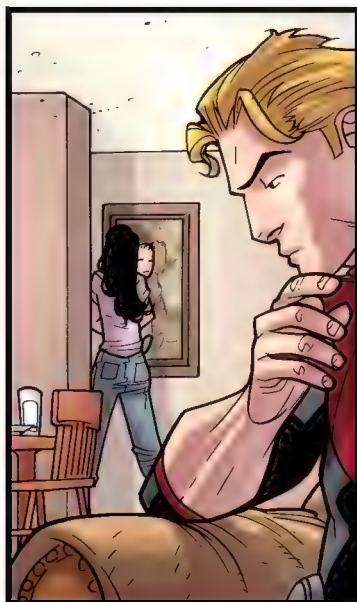
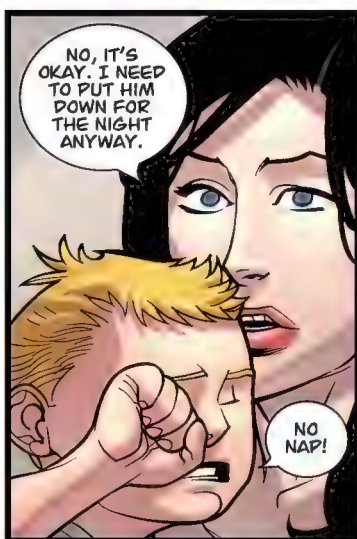




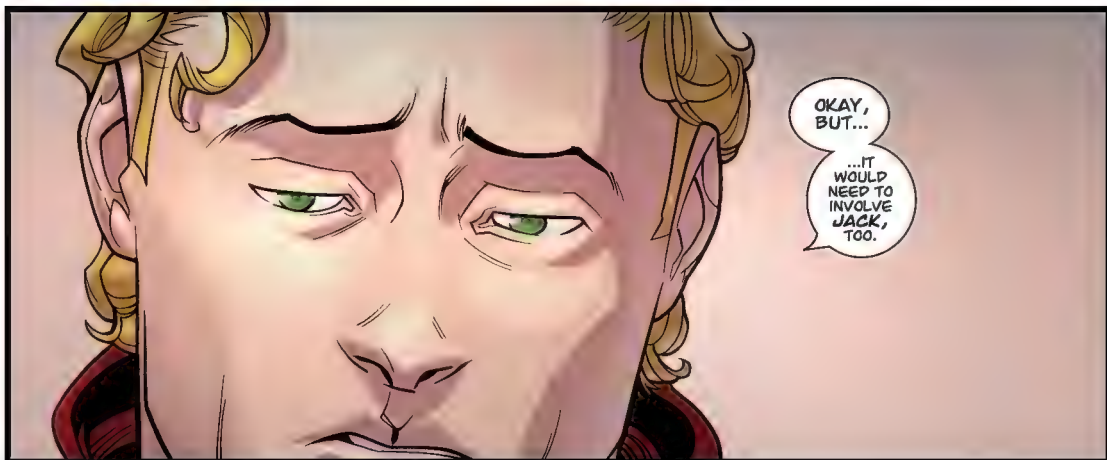
IT'S NOT WORKING!  
I CAN'T GET HIM  
TO COME TO ME! I  
CAN'T FIND  
HIM!

THERE ARE  
TOO DAMN MANY  
SUPERHEROES!  
HOW DO I GET  
INVINCIBLE TO  
COME AFTER  
ME?!

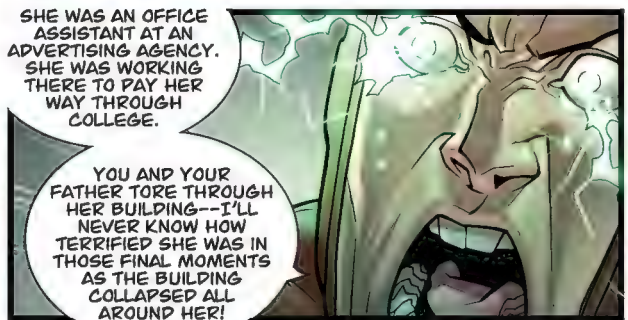
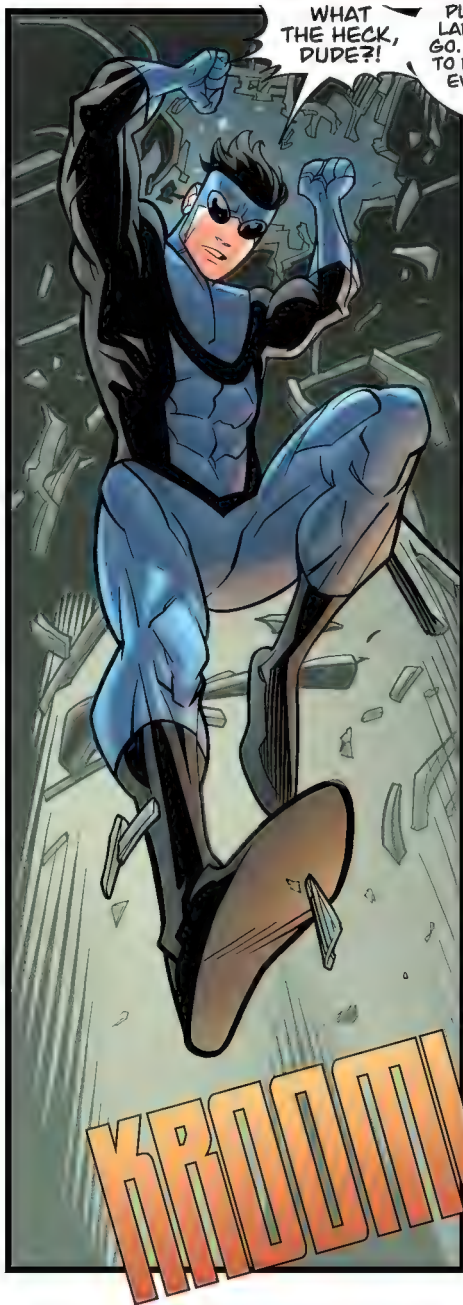
**AARRRGH!**



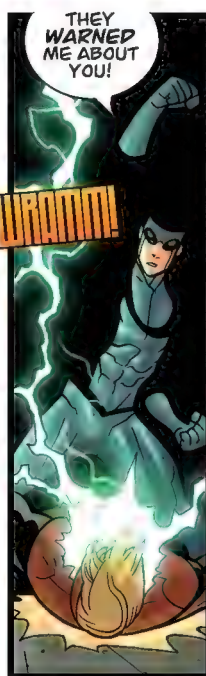
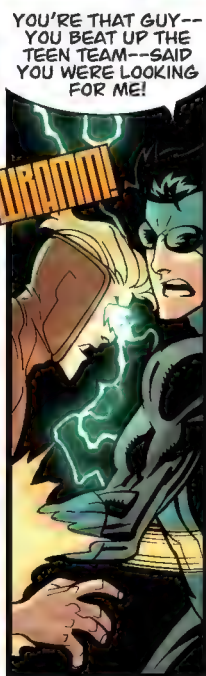
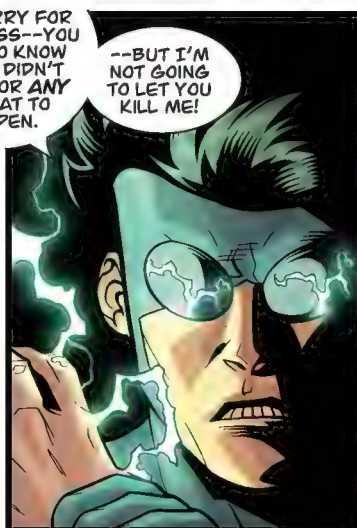




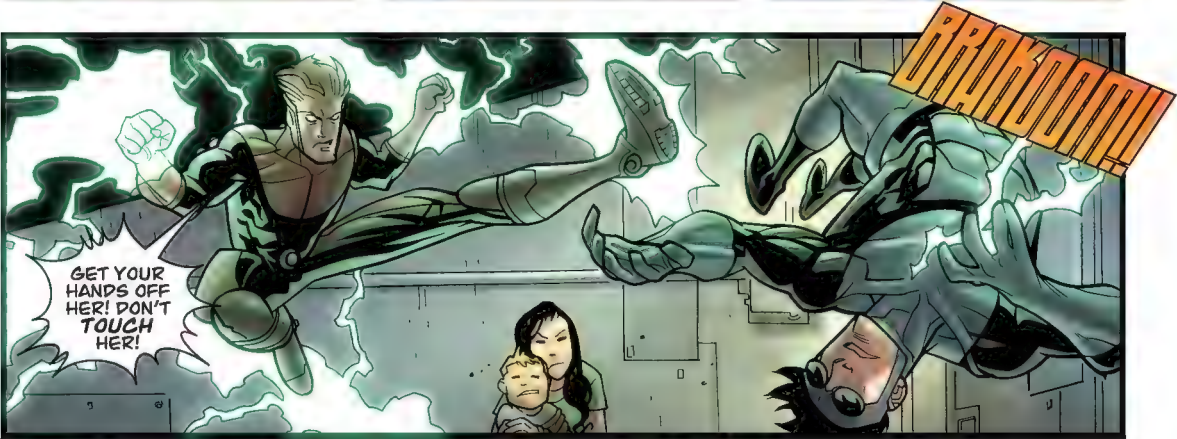










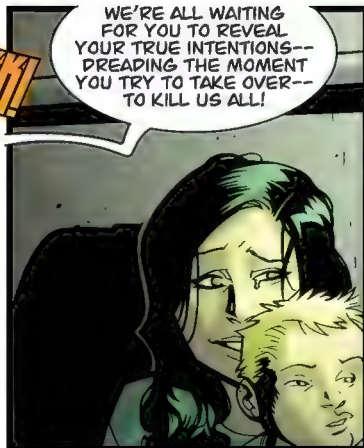




THE PEOPLE FEAR  
YOU, Y'KNOW? IT  
MIGHT NOT BE  
OBVIOUS--BUT  
YOU SCARE  
EVERYONE!



WE'RE ALL WAITING  
FOR YOU TO REVEAL  
YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS--  
DREADING THE MOMENT  
YOU TRY TO TAKE OVER--  
TO KILL US ALL!



BUT THEY WON'T HAVE  
TO WORRY ABOUT  
THAT, I'LL PROTECT  
THEM FROM YOU.  
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU  
NEVER HURT  
ANYONE EVER  
AGAIN.



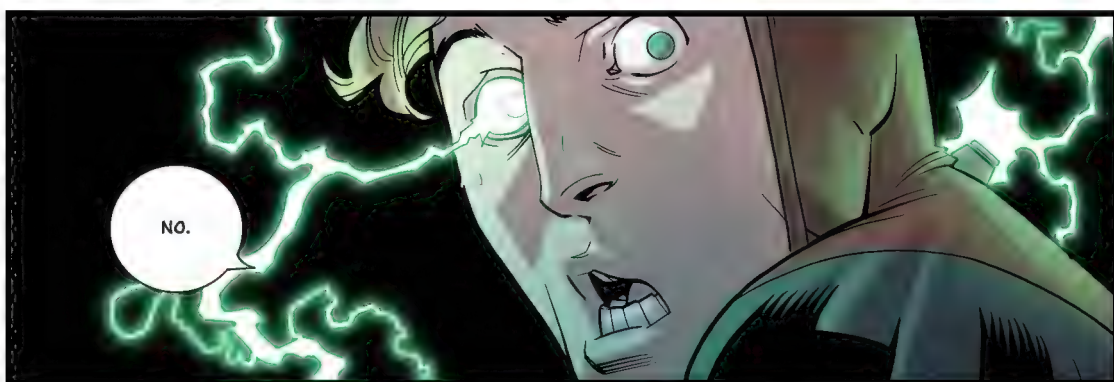
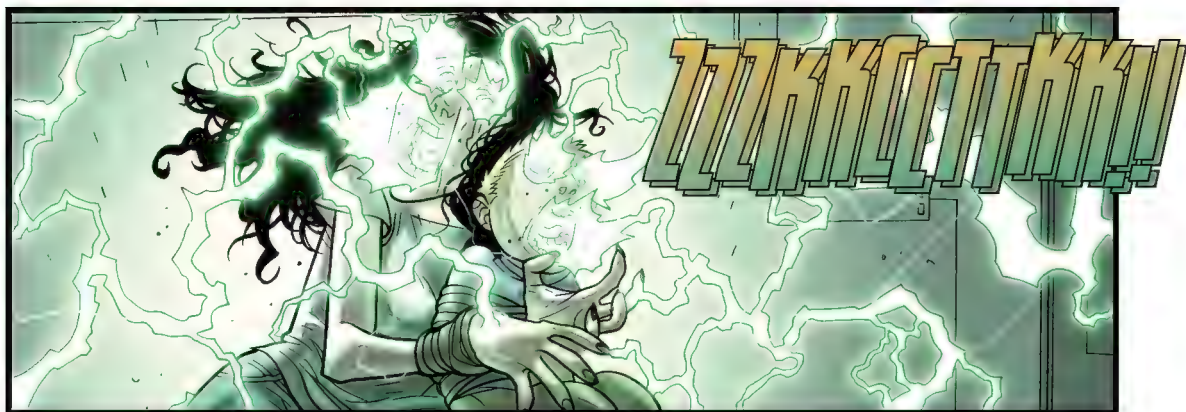
DIE  
INVINCIBLE!

FOR  
EVERYTHING  
YOU'VE DONE!  
FOR ALL THE  
PAIN YOU'VE  
CAUSED!

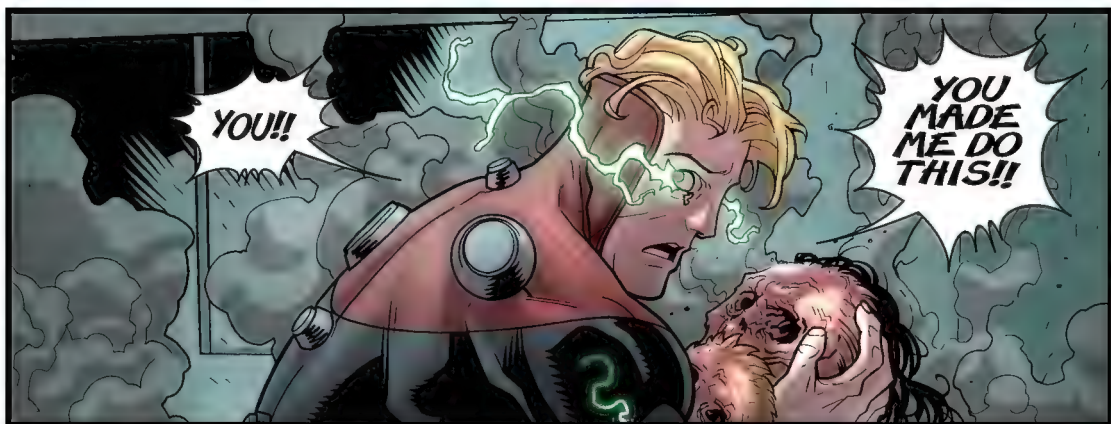
**DIE!**

**BZZZACKKTTT!**









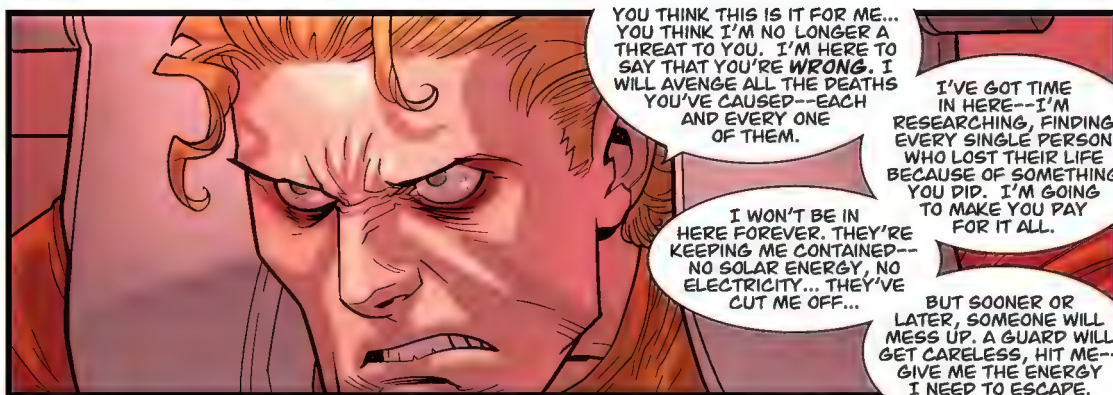
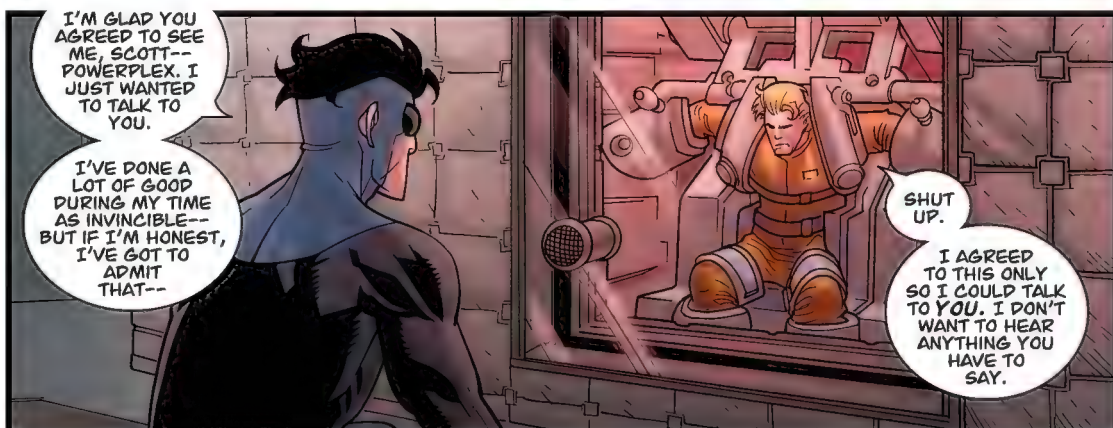










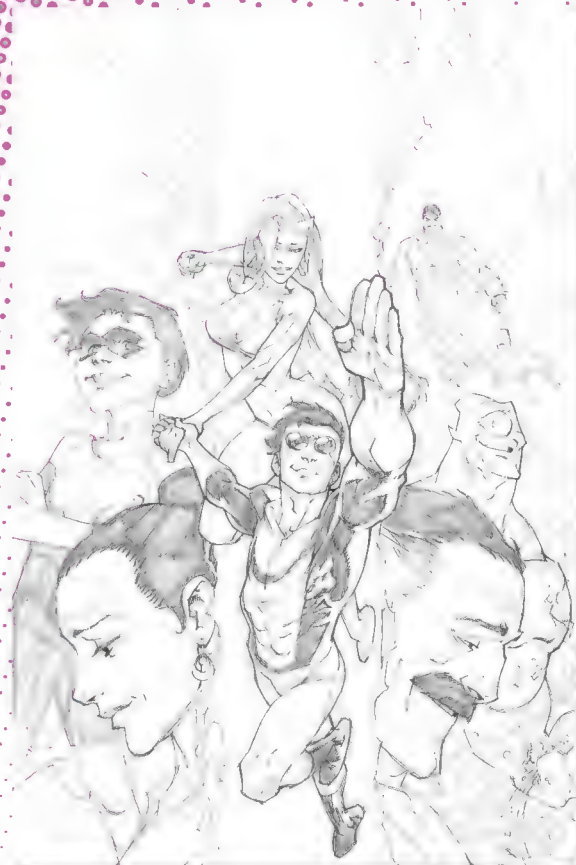








# SKETCHBOOK



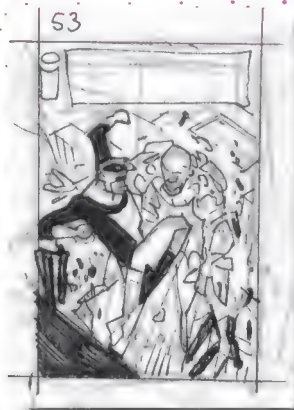
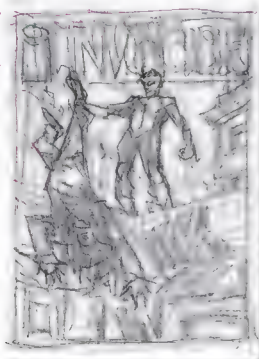
**ROBERT KIRKMAN:** This cover was another winner by Ryan. Also cool because it marks the first time everyone's favorite costume has graced a TPB cover. Funny story, I had no idea what to call this TPB and Ryan suggested "HAPPY DAYS" and drew the cover to match that. The title is appropriate--let's just hope this isn't the last time Mark is happy...

**RYAN OTTLEY:** *Man, I just woke up. I'm a bit out of it and tired. But I'm gonna do my darndest to talk about this stuff. Glad you liked Happy Days, I worked so hard on coming up with that title.*

**KIRKMAN:** This is going to be fun.







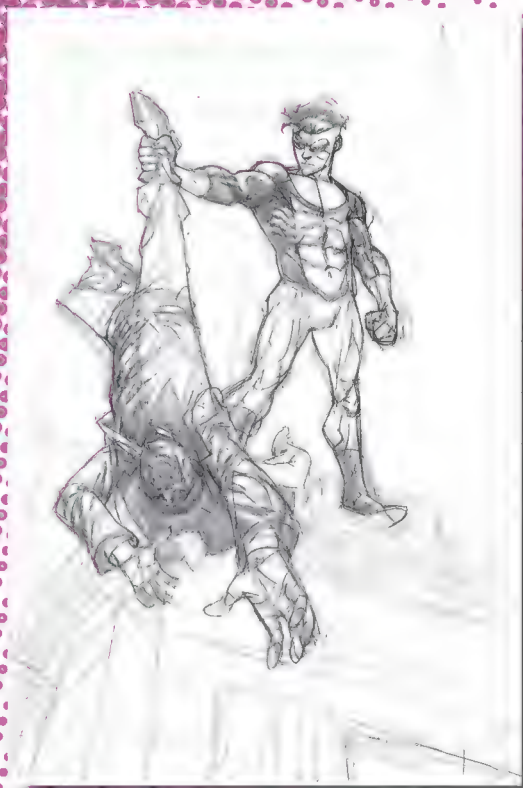
**KIRKMAN:** Here's the cover to issue 54 in stark black and white. I think I've gushed on Ryan enough to be able to admit that this is my least favorite cover of the series in a good long time. It's a perfectly fine drawing but I expected so much more out of you, Ottley! Oh well, in the interest of time I let it slide.

**OTTLEY:** Sorry Robert. Yeah the composition is pretty terrible. I think Bill Crabtree's colors saved it though. Thanks Bill!

**KIRKMAN:** Also on this page an unused cover sketch and the first design for the issue 56 cover, more on that next page.







**KIRKMAN:** By contrast, this cover for issue 56... is darn stunning. One of my favorites of recent memory. Fun fact: I think I said GARY, Amber's boyfriend, as the story is about Mark confronting him--but I probably said PAUL on accident, who is Debbie's older boyfriend. Ryan drew Paul on this cover... and I bet you guys didn't even notice!

**OTTLEY:** HA! Yeah that was weird. You got the cover and was like "why in the world is Amber's boyfriend wearing a suit?!?" I said "Amber's boyfriend, you mean Debbie's boyfriend, right?" We were so confused, but hey why can't a young out of high school kid wear a suit? It happens.

**KIRKMAN:** I'm wearing a suit right now!







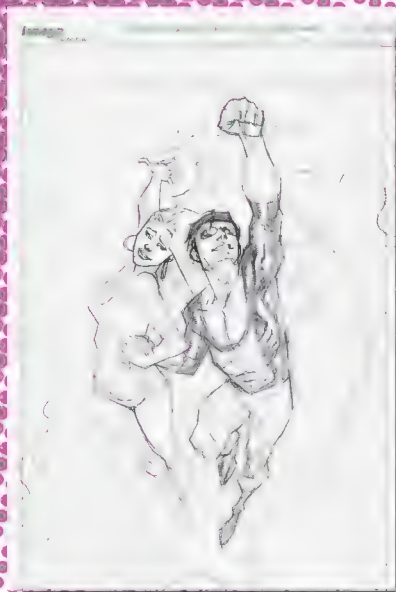
**KIRKMAN:** The hits just keep on coming. I love this cover as well. Wolf-Man vs. Invincible. I remember Jason was kind of annoyed that Wolf-Man was getting beat up on both covers... he wanted Wolf-Man holding his own on one of them. He was probably right... but nobody seemed to notice--and let's face it, Invincible is stronger.

**OTTLEY:** Yeah, I remember we were giving him a hard time about it, saying when he's been on the book for 50 issues then he can draw Wolfman punching Invincible. It's all about seniority.

**KIRKMAN:** I'm so proud that they don't even really fight each other at all in this story. Heh.



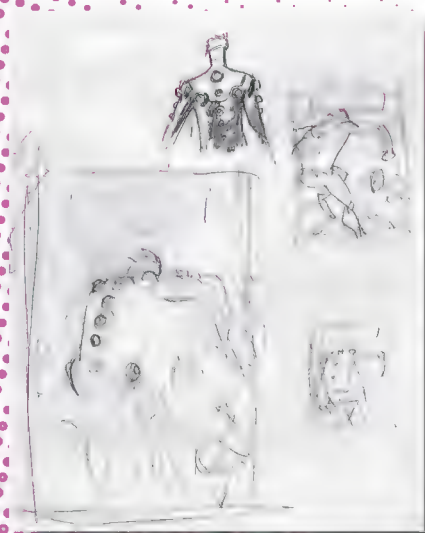




**KIRKMAN:** The cover to issue 58, Eve and Mark in front of pink clouds. I dare you to read this on the train, mister macho comics fan! Awesome cover, though.

**OTTLEY:** Yeah but those stylin' girls that read our book were probably toting this around in style, maybe even matching it with their top and reading it at the Salon.

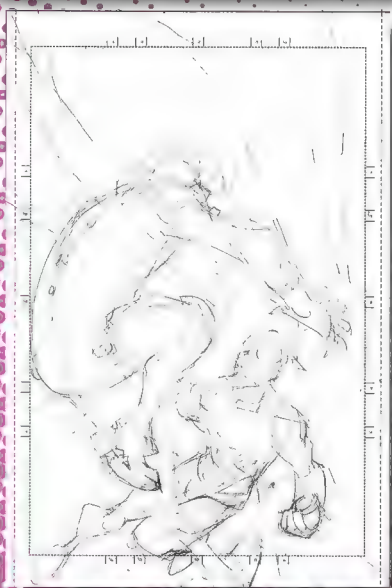
**KIRKMAN:** That's uh... a little sexist, Ryan.



**KIRKMAN:** The cover to issue 59. I know I wanted him to look like he could possibly be an evil version of Invincible and that's why I wanted him shown from behind... but I don't really remember why. It had nothing to do with Angstrom's army of Invincible's from issue 58 as I recall.

**OTTLEY:** Powerplex was something nobody expected. Seems like everyone expects there to be some kind of closer relationship between new characters, like it must be his good friend Rick Sheridan because of the blond hair, or it must be an evil Invincible, or even it must be Mark's second cousin once removed. No one expected a full story devoted to a new super villain. Which is good, keeps everyone on their toes.

**KIRKMAN:** Yeah! We're not like those STANDARD superhero comics where everyone is related in some way.

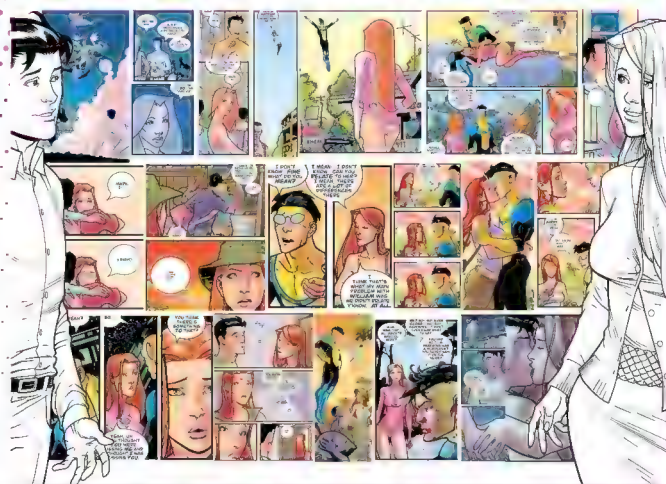




**KIRKMAN:** This montage... this friggin' thing was a monster. I really wanted to do this spread this way... so you could read all their past moments... I wanted you to be able to read them talking and kind of get that sense of their history together... but it just looked like a mess. At first I was adamant that I wanted to use the actual panels from the book instead of having something redrawn... but it just didn't work. What we ended up with, I think, is much better.

**OTTLEY:** It's always better to re-draw things instead of re-use super old art. But I was crying about this one, I just didn't want to draw it all after Robert said "this'll be great, you won't have to draw a thing!". Robert worked all night putting together old panels and getting it set up on the page between the two figures I drew. But in the end it looked odd and he asked me to draw it all. I'm happy with how it turned out though, so I'm glad he threatened to fire me if I didn't draw it.

**KIRKMAN:** Wait--WHAT?! I must have been up REALLY late.



**KIRKMAN:** Some random penciled pages from Ryan. For this spread, I asked for "the best superhero date ever." I wanted them to go everywhere--and have a good time doing it. Ryan, you really excel at these montage spreads. I should have you do these more.

**OTTLEY:** You write em' and I'll draw em'! I love doing these things. I liked the idea of seeing them really enjoy this date in a super-hero style. Just way cool.

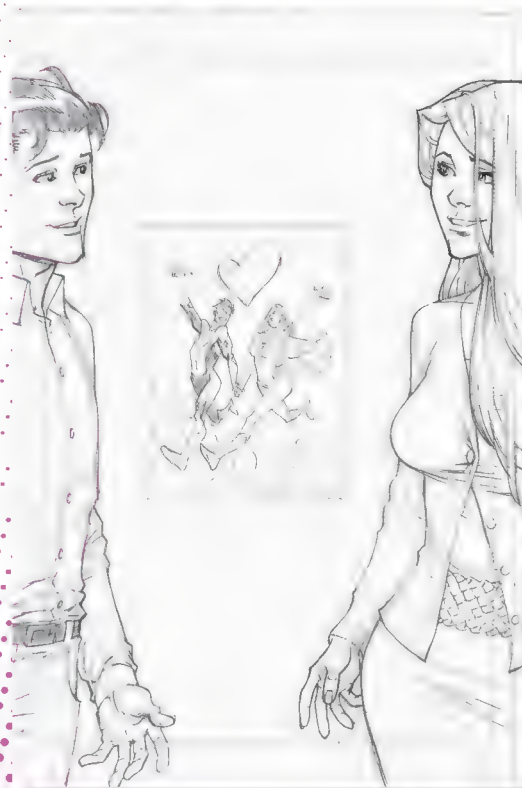




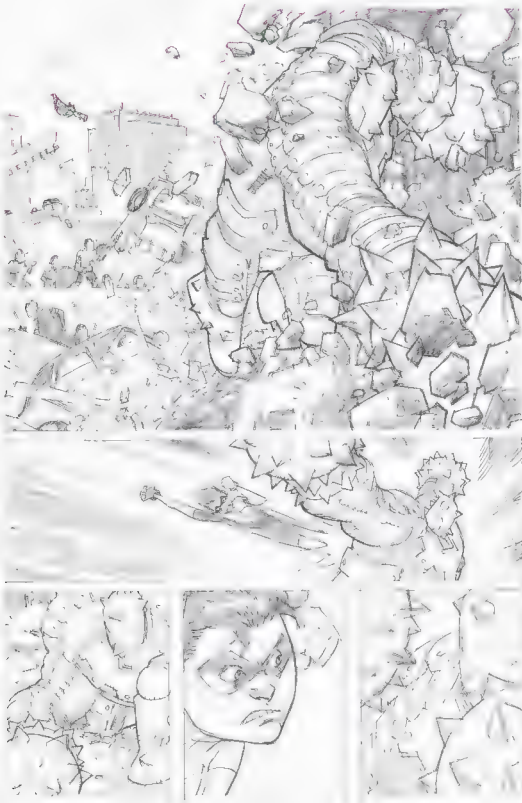
**KIRKMAN:** This is cool--you can see how Ryan drew the montage of Mark and Eve's history spread. The figures are just on one page--and then he drew the montage on another page... look at us, pulling back the curtain!

**OTTLEY:** Yeah I did the side characters on one page since we were going to cut and paste the old art from previous issues. That's why they are all separate. The panel inbetween Mark and Eve never saw print, fortunately.

**KIRKMAN:** Give it time... I never let anything go to waste!







**KIRKMAN:** More penciled pages. Oliver fighting Rampage and Wolf-Man and Invincible surrounded by Reanimen. I love Rampage... I really want to put him and Octoboss in EVERY issue but Ryan won't let me.

**OTTLEY:** How about do an Invincible presents Octoboss and Rampage issue and have Nate Bellagarde draw it. It's a win win!







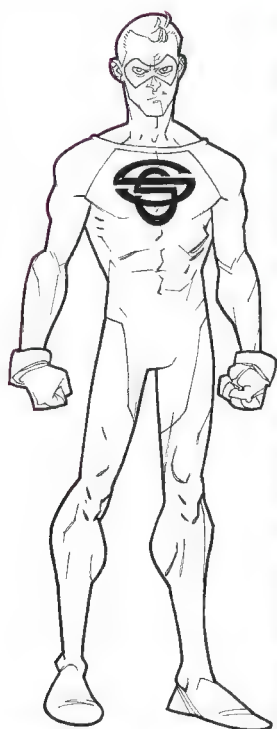
- SQUEEZE -

**KIRKMAN:** Oh, this is where Ryan get's to talk about what a slave driver I am. He drew Eve's butt going out of the panel as a joke and told me he'd cut it off in the inks--and then later said he wanted to keep it in. It looked like the panel border was riding up her crack--which made it look more obscene. And half of his alternate Invincibles in issue 58 were way too goofy! For shame!

**OTTLEY:** *Robert is such a slave driver.*







**KIRKMAN:** New costume for Shapemsmith, I don't think I ever even asked for it... but Ryan wanted to change his costume... so he did it. I did have him change the logo on his chest a bit.

**OTTLEY:** That shapemsmith design has always bugged me so I felt he needed a re-design. He's much more iconic now I think. Nothing says iconic like an "S" or two on your chest.

**KIRKMAN:** Then Powerplex. I love this guy... I really like his nonsensical name--the design Ryan gave him is great... and yeah, he should be around for a while. There's some cool stuff in the prelim versions here... but I think we made the right move on the no cape thing.

**OTTLEY:** Seems like every time I try and add a cape to a guy it gets taken off. Capes are just so out this season.

**KIRKMAN:** Angstrom has a cape now! That counts!





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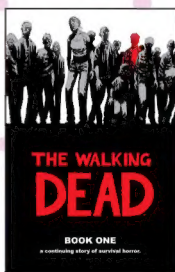
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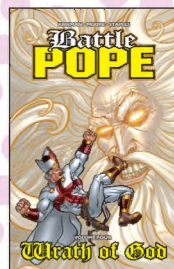
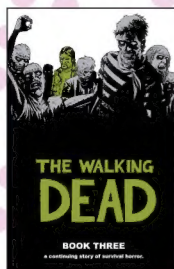
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